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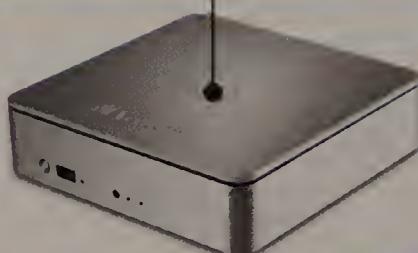
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# A Seaworthy Community

Eight years of floating Mac conferences reveal how far we've come

I'm writing this column from the deck of a ship bobbing up and down in the Atlantic Ocean. I'm a speaker on the latest MacMania cruise-slash-conference; because *Macworld* coproduces the event, this is the sixth time I've done it.

More notable than the fact that I'm with a ship full of Apple fans and experts like Andy Ihnatko and David Pogue is that MacMania has been around for most of a decade that's seen a sea change (sorry) in the Mac community.

## Then and Now

The first Mac cruise was in May 2002. The ships are still the same. You can still find hot dogs, burgers, and taco fixings next to the pool on the Lido Deck. But everything else is different.

Back then, Apple was just beginning its turnaround. The company had introduced the iMac and the iBook, the latter with built-in AirPort wireless networking. There was Wi-Fi on the first cruise because we brought our own AirPort Base Stations and attached them to the ship's network. Today we take wireless networking for granted.

On the first voyage, users of Apple products were an isolated tribe. Our fellow cruise passengers looked at us like we had boarded the wrong ship. But as I walked around the decks in 2010, I discovered Apple products everywhere—and not just in the hands of the hundred-plus members of our MacMania group.

In the ship's coffee bar, you couldn't use an iPad for five minutes without someone stopping to ask you for a demo. One of the event's speakers ended up grabbing two iPads and walking through a dozen apps for a retired doctor and his wife. They were soon deep in a game of iPad Scrabble.

If you're one of the Mac users who have joined the tribe since the introduc-



## The us-against-the-world feeling is gone, but the sense of community remains.

tion of the iPod—which was also brand new on that first cruise (I brought my first-generation model with me)—Apple's near-death experience back then probably seems more like an ancient myth than a historical fact.

## Rebels No Longer

What really struck me on this year's cruise is that, although the us-against-the-world feeling of the first event has vanished, the sense of community remains strong. What holds users of Apple products together today isn't rebellion—the whole world seems to have embraced Apple—it's just our shared enthusiasm about technology.

Even in a place like Bermuda (this year's destination), enthusiasm for Apple products runs high. The local cellular shops advertise iPhones. The iStore, an Apple reseller just two blocks away from where we docked, is busy, staffed by bright folks, and serving a market that seems to be hungry for the latest and greatest from Apple. (That's more than a bit of a trick when you're on an island

that's not at the top of Apple's international product-rollout plans.)

## A Thank You in Return

Because MacMania cruises are primarily promoted through *Macworld* itself, these events are populated almost entirely by readers of the magazine. I probably talk to more loyal readers of *Macworld* on these cruises than I do at Macworld Expo. And the words they had for the magazine were kind indeed. After they recognized me based on my column photo, they would tell me about their love for the magazine. They praised our writers and all the tips and reviews. But most of all they told me about the delight they had going through the pages every month.

For those of us who work on *Macworld*, it's awfully easy to lose sight of the big picture. We come to work every day and toil at the mundane business of 21st century publishing: talking to writers, assigning stories, wrestling with print and online production systems that are alternately infuriating and exhausting. It's easy to lose sight of why we're doing it. But after spending a week with a bunch of voracious *Macworld* readers, I got to see what happens when the fruits of our labors reach our readers. It's a beautiful thing.

So I say to all of you *Macworld* readers, whether at sea or on dry land: Thank you. Thanks for reading us every month. Thanks for e-mailing or posting on our forums or sending me something on Twitter when you've got something to say. And thanks to those of you who don't do any of those things, but who still read us regularly. We wouldn't be here without you.

---

Editorial Director **Jason Snell** has taught classes on six MacMania cruises, most recently MacMania X. For more information about MacMania, visit [insightcruises.com](http://insightcruises.com). E-mail him at [jason\\_snell@macworld.com](mailto:jason_snell@macworld.com), or follow him on Twitter at [@jsnelli.](http://twitter.com/jsnell)

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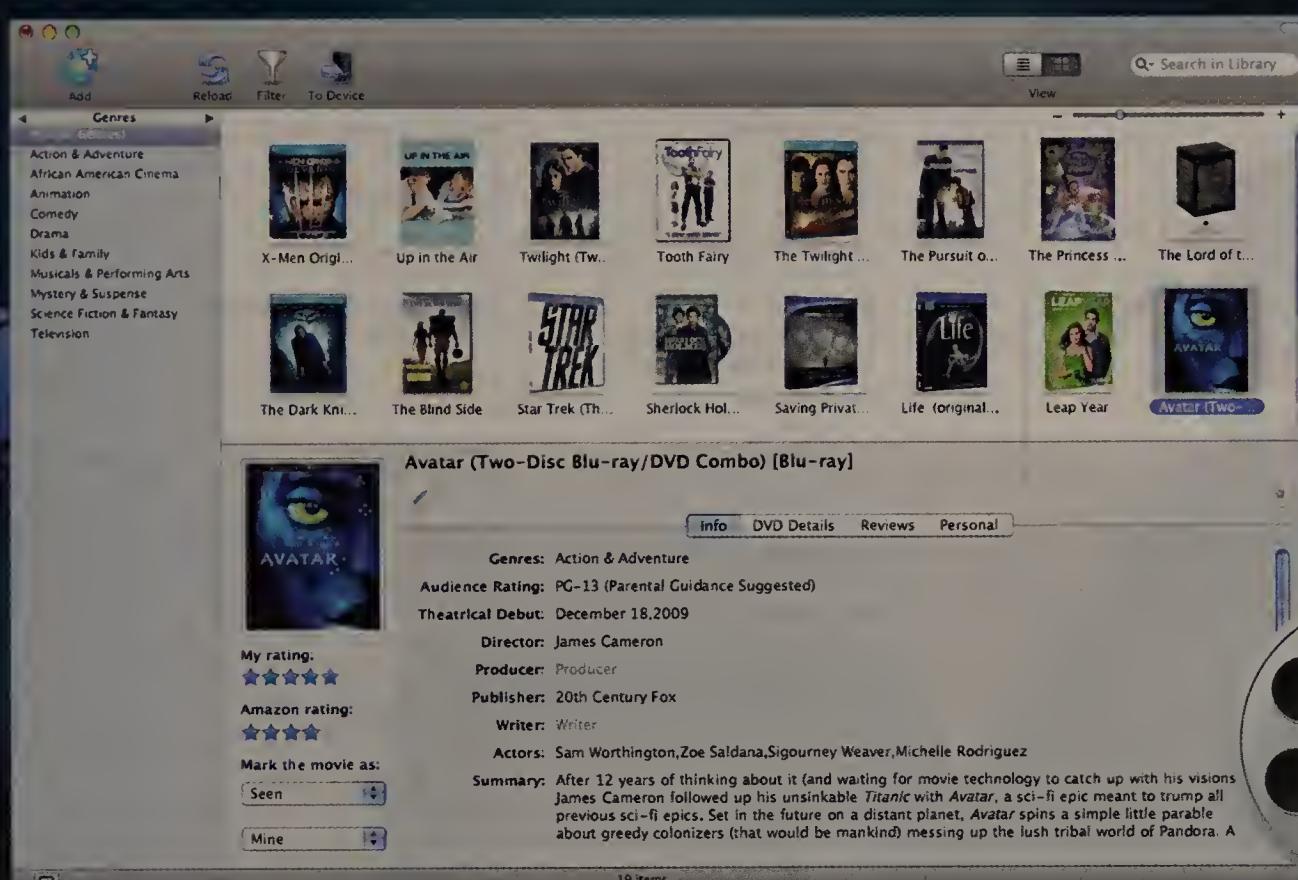
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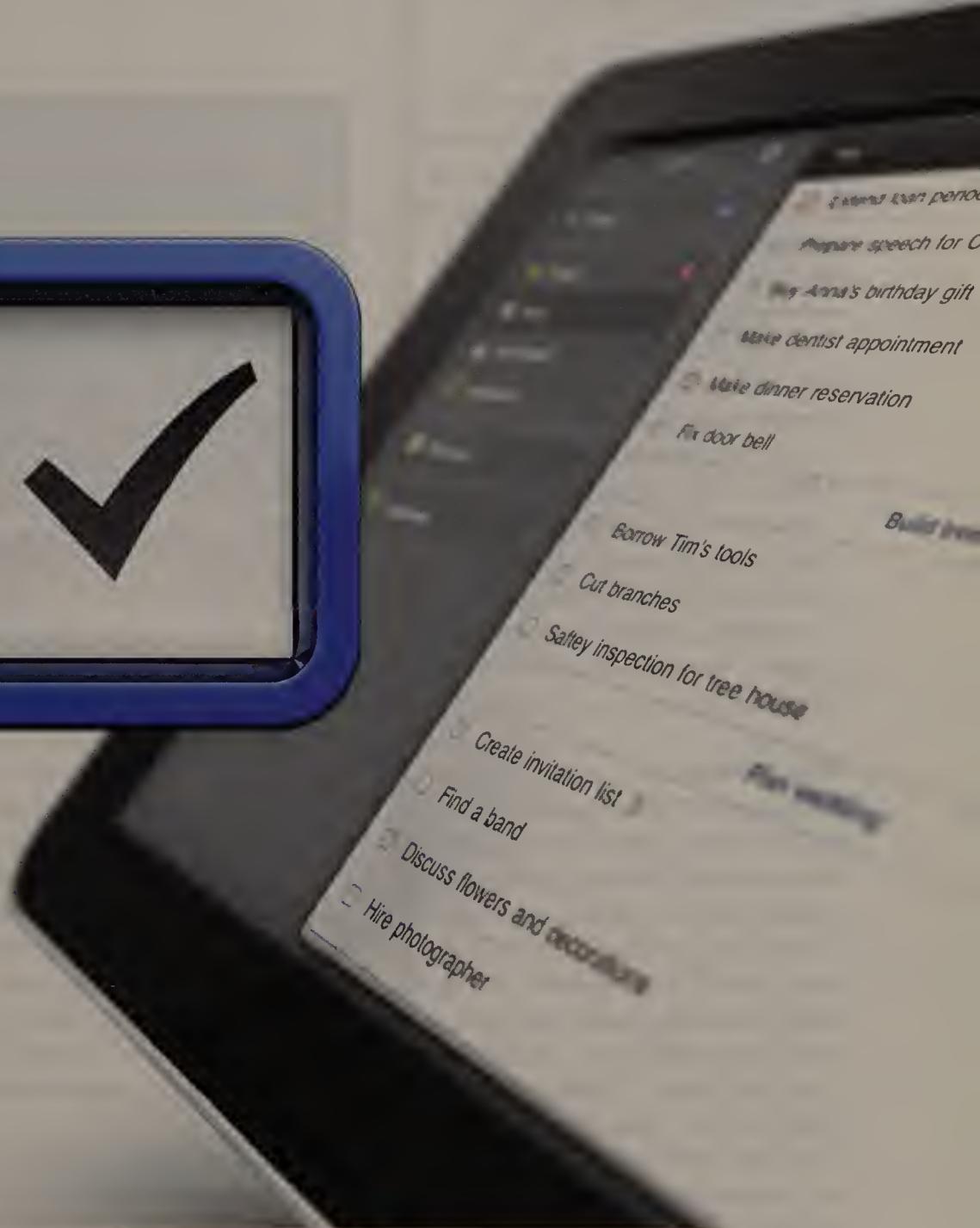
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# 15-Inch MacBook Pro Speeds Up

The slowest new one is faster than the fastest old one

BY JAMES GALBRAITH

## REVIEW

Apple's new 15-inch MacBook Pro lineup may look just like the mid-2009 lineup that preceded it, but thanks to some important under-the-hood changes—to both the CPU and the GPU—the new laptops make an impressive leap in performance.

The new 15-inch MacBook Pro comes in three standard configurations: a \$1799 entry-level system with a 2.4GHz Core i5 processor and 320GB hard drive (★★★★½); a \$1999 system with a 2.53GHz Core i5 processor and 500GB hard drive (★★★★); and a \$2299 model with a 2.66GHz Core i7 processor and 500GB drive (★★★★). All three come with dual graphics processors and glossy 15.4-inch LED-backlit screens.

## What's New

These 15-inch MacBook Pro models drop the Intel Core 2 Duo processors that had been used in Apple laptops since late 2006 in favor of Intel's Core i5 and Core i7 mobile processors. The new CPUs have a few tricks that enhance performance, including Hyper-Threading and Turbo Boost. (For more on the improved CPUs, see "New CPUs at the Core of MacBook Pros," page 14.)

The updated MacBook Pros also offer two distinct graphics systems: one that's integrated into the CPU subsystem, and another that Apple added; previously, the entry-level 15-inch MacBook Pro had integrated graphics only. The new laptops can use the Intel HD integrated graphics for general-purpose apps, but when they need to run more graphically intensive programs, they can switch over to the faster nVidia GeForce GT 330M graphics system. That switchover is man-



aged by a new technology developed by Apple. (For more on that, see "Big Boost in Laptop Graphics," page 11.)

Also new is the support for inertial scrolling on the Multi-Touch glass trackpad. As on the iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad, when you swipe your finger up or down to scroll through a document, there's a momentum effect that keeps the screen scrolling until it appears to slow down. The feature is available on the new MacBook Pros; you won't be able to upgrade older laptops to get it.

The last significant change in the new line has to do with the Mini DisplayPort, which can now output multichannel audio and video. (You have to use a Mini DisplayPort to HDMI Adapter that supports the new MacBook Pro's audio and video signals.)

## The Speedy Results

To see how these internal improvements affected performance, we ran the new MacBook Pros through our

standard system performance benchmark, Speedmark 6. The results we saw were impressive.

The new low-end 2.4GHz Core i5 is 23 percent faster overall in our tests than the previous low-end model, with its 2.53GHz Core 2 Duo. In fact, the new entry-level 2.4GHz MacBook Pro is faster than the last generation's top two configurations (which had 2.66GHz and 2.8GHz Core 2 Duo processors, respectively).

More specifically, the 2.4GHz Core i5 MacBook Pro is 5 percent faster in our Speedmark 6 testing than the previous top-of-the-line 2.8GHz Core 2 Duo MacBook Pro, 7 percent faster in Photoshop, 17 percent faster in our Cinebench CPU test, 16 percent faster on MathematicaMark 7, and 19 percent faster running Aperture.

On average, the new midrange 2.53GHz system is only slightly faster—about 3 percent—than the entry-level model. In some tests (Aperture and Compressor), the

low-end model is actually faster. The top-of-the-line 2.66GHz Core i7 model is 7 percent faster on our tests than the midrange model and 10 percent faster than the low-end laptop; it is 15 percent faster than the 2.8GHz Core 2 Duo model it replaces.

The new graphics systems have given the MacBook Pro a real boost. The nVidia GeForce GT 330M was able to display approximately 19 percent more frames per second in our Call of Duty tests than the last generation's nVidia GeForce GT 9600M. Even bumping the resolution from 1024 by 768 (our standard for Speedmark 6) up to 1440 by 900 didn't impede the system's performance.

Comparing the new MacBook Pros to iMacs that also use Core i5 and Core i7 processors shows that you still pay a premium for performance in a portable. The high-end 2.66GHz Core i7 MacBook

Pro is 24 percent slower overall than the 2.66GHz Core i5 17-inch iMac. Credit for that goes to the iMac's use of the desktop Core i5 and Core i7 processors—which have four processing cores—and a faster, 7200-rpm hard drive.

### What Didn't Change

Except for those under-the-hood changes, the 15-inch MacBook Pros are much the same as before. The display is the same glossy 15.4-inch widescreen LCD with LED backlighting and 1440-by-900-pixel resolution. (An antiglare, high-resolution [1680-by-1050] option is available for an extra \$150; a glossy high-resolution display is available, too, for an additional \$100.)

The unibody case is unchanged. There's still a backlit keyboard, a Multi-Touch trackpad, and an 8X DVD-burning SuperDrive. On the sides, you'll find two familiar USB 2.0 ports, one gigabit ethernet jack, and one FireWire 800 port; an SD card slot; a MagSafe power port; and audio line-in and line-out ports that support optical digital and analog signals.

Although the new MacBook Pros have the same nonreplaceable battery as the late-2009 models did, smarter power consumption by the graphics systems and some subtle changes to the battery have improved battery life. In our movie playback tests, (a worst-case battery-draining scenario), the three new laptops lasted, on average, for 4 hours and 35 minutes—an improvement of between 10 and 25 percent.

### Macworld's Buying Advice

The new 15-inch MacBook Pros are better performers and have better battery life than their immediate predecessors, but they are priced similarly to them. The extra \$100 for the new low-end system seems like an especially good bargain when you consider the discrete graphics, bigger hard drive, and new 2.4GHz Core i5 processor.

*Note that we didn't receive the 17-inch MacBook Pros in time to include reviews of them in this issue; look for summaries of those reviews in next month's issue.*



## Big Boost in Laptop Graphics

BY JAMES GALBRAITH

All the new 15- and 17-inch MacBook Pros come with two graphics systems. They use integrated Intel HD graphics for everyday applications like iTunes, Mail, and Safari. But if you launch a more graphically intensive app, they will automatically switch to the dedicated nVidia GeForce GT 330M graphics system. (Most of the last-generation MacBook Pros also had two systems; the entry-level 15-inch came with integrated graphics only.)

The switchover from one graphics processor to another is managed by a new technology developed by Apple. It looks for frameworks needed by individual apps at launch (such as OpenGL and Core Animation) and then figures out how much graphics processing power those frameworks require. Previously, you had to decide which graphics you wanted to use; and switching between them required you to log out and then log back in to OS X.

You can turn this functionality off by unchecking the Automatic Graphics Switching checkbox in the Energy Saver preference pane. Doing this forces the system to use the less-powerful integrated graphics only; there's currently no way to force the new laptops to use the more powerful subsystem.

In the new 13-inch MacBook Pros, Apple has replaced the last generation's GeForce 9400M processor with the GeForce 320M. The 320M has three times as many processing cores (48) as the 9400M, and it's also more energy efficient.

## Macworld Lab Test

### Speedmark 6 Test Results

#### 13-INCH LAPTOPS

MacBook Pro/2.4GHz (Core 2 Duo)	118
MacBook Pro/2.66GHz (Core 2 Duo)	126
MacBook/2.26GHz (Core 2 Duo; late 2009)	111
MacBook Pro/2.26GHz (Core 2 Duo; mid 2009)	104
MacBook Pro/2.53GHz (Core 2 Duo; mid 2009)	120

#### 15-INCH LAPTOPS

MacBook Pro/2.4GHz (Core i5)	146
MacBook Pro/2.53GHz (Core i5)	150
MacBook Pro/2.66GHz (Core i5)	161
MacBook Pro/2.53GHz (Core 2 Duo; mid 2009)	118
MacBook Pro/2.66 GHz (Core 2 Duo; mid 2009)	127
MacBook Pro/2.8GHz (Core 2 Duo; mid 2009)	139

Longer bars are better. Reference systems are in *italics*. For complete benchmark test results for the 15-inch MacBook Pros, please visit [macworld.com/6124](http://macworld.com/6124). For complete benchmark test results for the 13-inch MacBook Pros, please visit [macworld.com/6125](http://macworld.com/6125).—MACWORLD LAB TESTING BY JAMES GALBRAITH, CHRIS HOLT, LYNN LA, AND MEGHANN MYERS



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# 13-Inch MacBook Pro

Of all the new MacBook Pros, the 13-inch models have changed the least from the previous generation

BY JONATHAN SEFF



## REVIEW

Although the 15- and 17-inch MacBook Pros use Intel's new Core i5 and Core i7 mobile processors, Apple stuck with the Core 2 Duo line of processors in the new 13-inch line: a 2.4GHz dual-core processor in the \$1199 model (\*\*\*\*), and a 2.66GHz dual-core processor in the \$1499 model (\*\*\*\*½)—up from the previous generation's 2.26GHz and 2.53GHz, respectively.

Some users have wondered why Apple decided to stick with the Core 2 Duo instead of using Intel's new Core i3 CPU. It seems most likely that Apple didn't want to stick with the integrated Intel HD graphics system that goes along with the Core i3. Instead, both new 13-inch models use nVidia's GeForce 320M graphics, which replace the GeForce 9400M system used in the last bunch.

## Test Results

Whatever the reason, the new models are faster than the old: The 2.4GHz model received a Speedmark score of 118, the 2.66GHz model a score of 126. The previous generation scored 104 and 120, respectively, and the MacBook got a 111.

The new graphics chips also deliver much better frame rates than their predecessors: On our Call of Duty test, the

new 2.4GHz MacBook Pro delivered 38.9 frames per second, 15.2 fps better than the previous generation's 2.53GHz model.

Battery life is better, too. In our testing (which plays a looped video in QuickTime until the battery dies), the 2.4GHz 13-inch MacBook Pro lasted 4 hours and 19 minutes; the 2.66GHz model ran for 4 hours and 33 minutes. Compare those times to those of the 2009 13-inch 2.26GHz and 2.53GHz models (3 hours and 30 minutes and 3 hours and 38 minutes, respectively), as well as to those of the current MacBook (3 hours and 45 minutes). (Apple's claim of 10-hour battery life is based on an entirely different test.)

In my own informal temperature testing (simultaneously running Windows XP in Parallels Desktop 4, encoding an HD MKV file in VideoMonkey, and streaming a Netflix TV show in Safari), the back of the laptop (where the battery is) got warm, but not uncomfortably so. After running for about 15 minutes, the maximum external temperature (measured by an infrared temperature device) was 107 degrees.

## The Hardware

All the new MacBook Pros have the same Multi-Touch glass trackpad as before. All of them (including the 13-inch models)

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now have inertial scrolling (swipe your finger down the screen, and the page will scroll as if it has momentum).

Both 13-inch models now include 4GB of 1066MHz DDR3 RAM, and support a max of 8GB. There are the usual ports—two USB 2.0, one FireWire 800, a Mini DisplayPort, a gigabit ethernet port, and an SD card slot. They also have full-size, backlit keyboards, 8X SuperDrives, built-in stereo speakers (which are quite good), and a built-in iSight camera. The new models include a 250GB or 320GB 5400-rpm hard drive (up from 160GB or 250GB drive, respectively, at the same speeds).

The new 13-inch MacBook Pros use the same LED-backlit 1280-by-800-pixel glossy display as the previous models. (There are no antiglare or high-resolution display options, as there are on the 15- and 17-inch models.) The displays are very bright, and

the viewing angle is respectable in the horizontal direction but not that great vertically—you need to adjust the angle of the display to achieve optimum viewing.

### Macworld's Buying Advice

If you already have the previous 13-inch MacBook Pro, there's not much reason to upgrade unless you must have the newest version of everything: Although the new models have improved performance, graphics, and battery life, they're not necessarily worth spending another \$1199 or more so soon. But to people who have an older (or no) laptop, the MacBook Pros are easy to recommend. That said, unless light weight is your primary buying criterion, you'd probably be better off taking advantage of the Core i5 and i7 processors and improved graphics on the 15- or 17-inch model.

## Macs: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE	DISPLAY	SPEED-MARK 6 <sup>a</sup>	FIND CODE <sup>b</sup>
<b>DESKTOP</b>						
iMac	Intel Core 2 Duo/3.06GHz (nVidia graphics)	4 1/2	\$1199	21.5 inches	148	5510
	Intel Core 2 Duo/3.06GHz (ATI graphics)	4 1/2	\$1499	21.5 inches	164	5509
	Intel Core 2 Duo/3.06GHz	4 1/2	\$1699	27 inches	162	5508
	Intel Core i5/2.66GHz	4 1/2	\$1999	27 inches	209	5511
Mac Mini	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.26GHz	4 1/2	\$599	not included	104	5507
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.53GHz	4 1/2	\$799	not included	118	5506
Mac Pro	Intel Xeon/2.66GHz (4 cores)	4 1/2	\$2499	not included	206	4488
	Intel Xeon/2.26GHz (8 cores)	4 1/2	\$3299	not included	203	4503
<b>PORTABLE</b>						
MacBook	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.26GHz (white)	4 1/2	\$999	13 inches	111	5505
MacBook Air	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.86GHz	4 1/2	\$1499	13 inches	70	4953
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.13GHz	4 1/2	\$1799	13 inches	72	4954
MacBook Pro	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	4 1/2	\$1199	13 inches	118	6151
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.66GHz	4 1/2	\$1499	13 inches	126	6152
	Intel Core i5/2.4GHz	4 1/2	\$1799	15 inches	146	6153
	Intel Core i5/2.53GHz	4 1/2	\$1999	15 inches	150	6154
	Intel Core i7/2.66GHz	4 1/2	\$2299	15 inches	161	6155
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.8GHz	4 1/2	\$2499	17 inches	140	4952

<sup>a</sup> Speedmark 6 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard). For more information on Speedmark testing, go to [macworld.com/5503](http://macworld.com/5503). <sup>b</sup> In a browser's address field, typing in a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) takes you to a product's review or overview.



## New CPUs at the Core of MacBook Pros

BY JAMES GALBRAITH

The Core i5 and Core i7 chips used in the latest MacBook Pros set a new standard in Mac laptop performance.

They both feature Intel's Turbo Boost technology. With Turbo Boost, the processor can boost its clock frequency when necessary. With the 2.4GHz Core i5 520M, Turbo Boost can increase the clock speed up to 2.93GHz; the 2.53GHz Core i5 goes up to 3.06GHz; and the 2.66GHz Core i7 can go up to 3.33GHz.

The Core processors also support Hyper-Threading. By using four virtual cores, Hyper-Threading allows each of the two cores on these chips to process two threads at once.

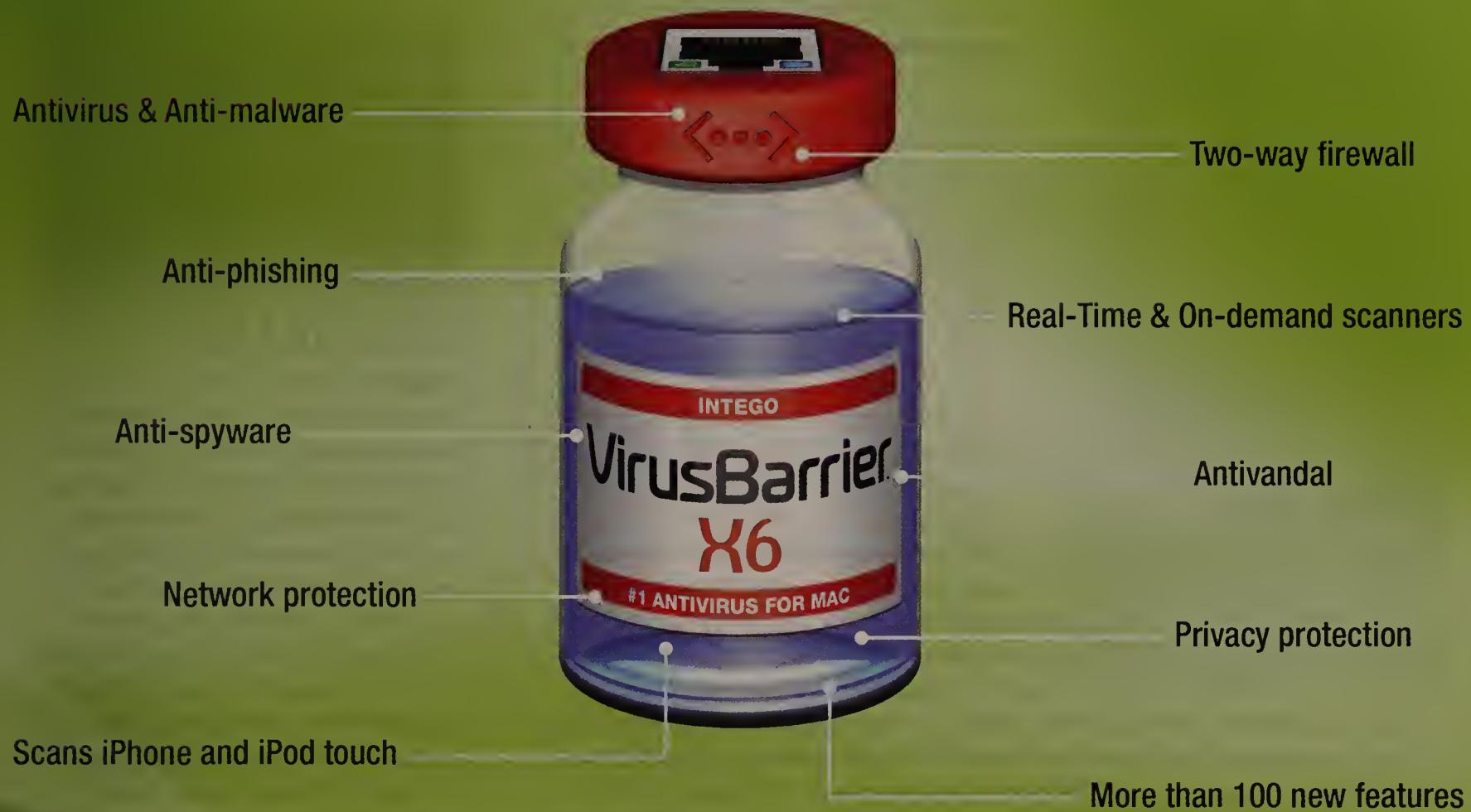
There's a key difference between the Core i5 processors used in the 27-inch iMac that was introduced last fall (and is still the fastest Mac we've ever tested) and those in the new MacBook Pros. The MacBook Pros use a mobile version of the Core i5 and Core i7. Both chips have two cores and can support up to four threads. The desktop Core i5 used in the iMac has four cores; however, it doesn't support Hyper-Threading.

### Correction

In our "Mac Money Managers" feature (June 2010), we misprinted a URL for SplashMoney on page 50. Instead of [macworld.com/5669](http://macworld.com/5669), it should be [macworld.com/5969](http://macworld.com/5969).

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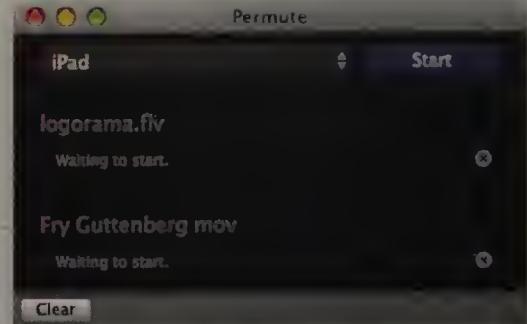
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## Permute 1.0.3

**VIDEO** Permute makes it simple to convert videos to formats compatible with your portable devices. You just drag a media file into the Permute window, choose your target device or format, and click Start. Over 20 targets are provided, including devices such as the iPod nano, iPhone, iPad, Apple TV, and Xbox, and general formats such as MP4, FLV, Ogg, WMV, and DVD. You can queue additional videos by dragging them into the same window; Permute will process them in sequence. The program supports a wide range of video and audio formats; it can even convert .flv (Flash) videos from the Web.

3½; \$15; Fuel Collective;  
[macworld.com/6082](http://macworld.com/6082)

## Instapaper

**WEB** Instapaper is a Web service that lets you save Web articles for later reading—for example, when you come across an interesting article that you don't have time to read immediately. Once you set up an Instapaper account and install Instapaper's Read Later bookmarklet in your browser's bookmarks bar, you can save any Web article to your account simply by clicking the Read Later bookmarklet.

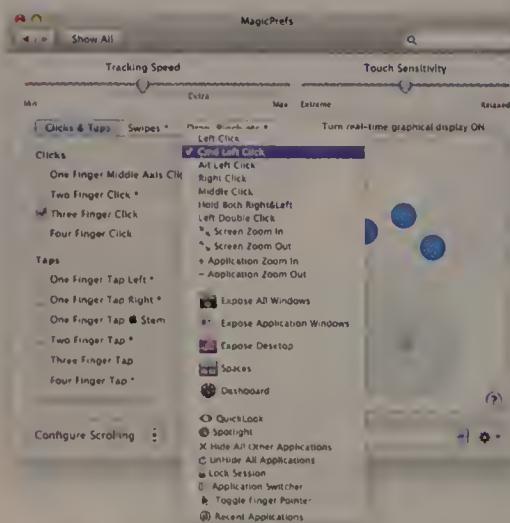
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3½; free; Marco Arment; [macworld.com/6080](http://macworld.com/6080)

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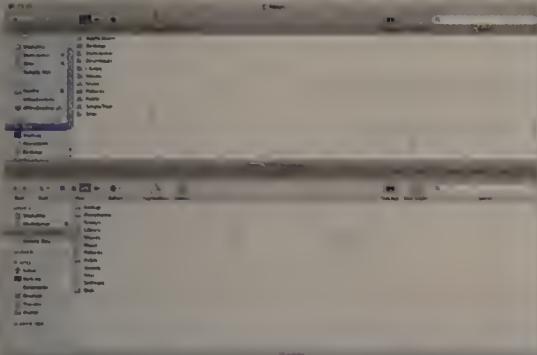


## MagicPrefs 1.8.2

**INPUT** Mac OS X lets you use the Multi-Touch surface of Apple's Magic Mouse only for scrolling and two-finger swiping. Install MagicPrefs and you get a slew of new possibilities: multifinger clicks, swipes, and pinches; various tapping gestures; and more.

For each gesture you enable, you choose an action to perform: invoking one of a variety of clicks and click combinations; toggling Exposé, Spaces, and Dashboard modes; activating Quick Look, Spotlight, and other system features; zooming; and managing applications. There's even a mode for using the top of the Magic Mouse as a makeshift trackpad. You can also trigger keyboard shortcuts, launch applications, or run AppleScripts. And as a bonus, you get much-improved controls for cursor-tracking speed and touch sensitivity.

3½; free; Vlad Alexa; [macworld.com/6081](http://macworld.com/6081)



## Fiwi 2.0.8

**UTILITY** I frequently place two Finder windows side by side for moving files around. Fiwi makes creating such window arrangements easy. Just put the utility in your Dock, or in your Finder-window sidebar or toolbar, and then whenever you click the Fiwi icon, you'll get two equally sized Finder windows, arranged side by side, on your screen. (If you already have Finder windows open, Fiwi uses the two you've accessed most recently; otherwise, it opens new windows.) Using an included settings utility, you can choose to have Fiwi arrange the two windows above and below each other, rather than side by side; or you can position two Finder windows in the arrangement that you prefer and tell Fiwi to use that arrangement instead. Fiwi may be a simple utility, but it has made my frequent file-moving sessions easier.

1½; \$1; WordPower; [macworld.com/6085](http://macworld.com/6085)

## DragThing 5.9.5

**UTILITIES** OS X's Dock has improved over the years, but it still has drawbacks: It can hold only so many items without becoming unusable, you can't have multiple Docks, and it doesn't support clippings or provide document previews. For years, many Mac users have turned to DragThing instead; the latest version adds greater functionality and an improved interface.

As it always has, DragThing lets you organize applications, folders, files, disks, servers, and URLs into docks—as many docks as you like. Within any dock, you can create multiple layers—each a separate screen, if you will, containing different items. You can open any item by clicking it or by assigning it a keyboard shortcut. And old-school Mac users will like that you can place the Trash on the desktop.

With the latest version, DragThing adds support for drawers (docks that hide off the screen, sliding into view only when you need them), clippings (frequently used boilerplate text), spring-loaded folders, and file and folder previews. Another useful option lets you create docks that display running programs (and even those programs' windows).

DragThing requires a certain amount of legwork to set up to your liking—you must think of the things you'll want to launch from it, and then populate your docks with those items—but once you've done that, the items you need are just a click or drag away. You don't need to think of names, commands, paths, or addresses. If you want to have the items you use most often available as clickable icons in nicely defined, customizable docks, take DragThing for a test drive. (For more on application launchers, see "Top Mac Timesavers," page 28.)—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

1½; \$29; TLA Systems; [macworld.com/6083](http://macworld.com/6083)



## TaskCard 1.3

**PRODUCTIVITY** TaskCard offers Stickies-like on-screen notes, but with quite a bit more functionality. You can customize the look and text formatting of your notes (which TaskCard calls cards), but the most significant improvement is the capability to create hierarchical task lists, including due dates and priorities. If a task requires files, you can drag related files into the card for quick access.

TaskCard's other notable feature is that you can create groups of cards, called sheets, each containing as many cards as you need. Switch to a different sheet, and that sheet's cards replace the ones currently on the screen; the data and layout of each sheet's cards are preserved between switches.

TaskCard can behave like a standard program, keeping its windows on screen all the time, or you can enable a Dashboard-like mode where your cards fade away when you switch to another program. With either mode, you can opt to obscure all other programs, using the background of your choosing, when TaskCard is active.

1½; \$10; The Alchemist Guild; [macworld.com/6084](http://macworld.com/6084)





# HOT STUFF

What We're Raving about This Month

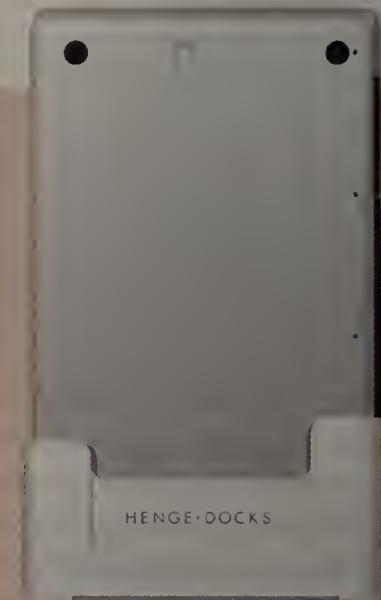


## Koku

Koku, a new personal finance tracker from Fading Red Software, aims to make money management accessible to everybody. As long as your bank is supported, Koku allows you to connect directly to your savings, checking, and credit card accounts, and retrieve transaction information from all of them. If your institution isn't supported, you can export your information in QFX, QIF, OFX, or OFC format (these are all widely supported) and then import it into Koku; you can also export your records from Koku to OFX. Koku automatically tags transactions with labels like 'music,' 'services,' and 'restaurants,' but you can also add your own. Visually inclined users can create charts that break down their different types of spending, track their spending history month by month, or display a summary of all their accounts. Koku requires Mac OS X 10.6 or later and currently costs \$25 as a limited-time introductory price ([www.fadingred.com](http://www.fadingred.com)).—DAN MOREN

## Henge Docks

If you own a notebook but occasionally hanker for a desktop, a Henge Dock could give you the best of both worlds. Just slip your MacBook into one, and it'll automatically be jacked into any peripherals on your desk. Each dock comes with a complement of USB, ethernet, audio, and (in some cases) FireWire cables. They're available in configurations for several 13-inch, 15-inch, and 17-inch MacBook and MacBook Pro models, and are available for preorder beginning at \$60 ([www.hengedocks.com](http://www.hengedocks.com)).—DAN MOREN



## FrameLoader

Nova Media's FrameLoader simplifies the process of getting content from Macs onto digital picture frames. The program lets you sync your iPhoto albums, iTunes playlists, and custom media files to your photo frame with one click; it automatically converts pictures, music, and videos into compatible formats. Once you've chosen the iPhoto albums and iTunes playlists you want to sync and connected your frame, FrameLoader automatically starts the synchronization process. FrameLoader can also sync memory sticks and



memory cards—and each device's sync settings are saved independently. FrameLoader is \$15 and requires an Intel Mac running OS X 10.6 ([www.novamedia.de](http://www.novamedia.de)).—DAVID DAHLQUIST

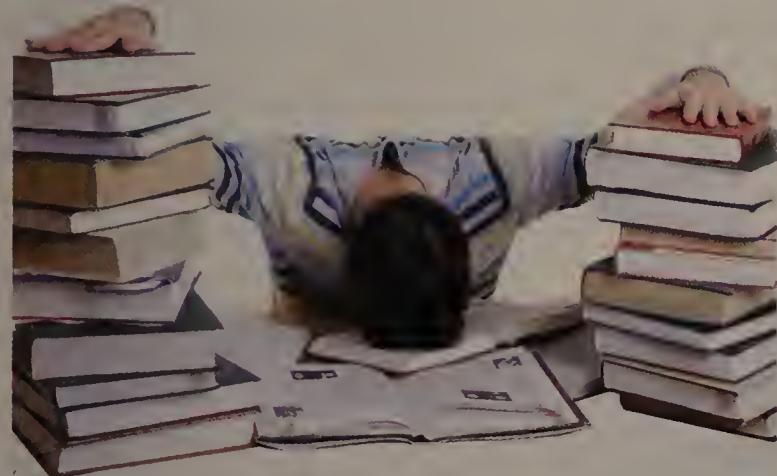
## Transmit 4

Transmit 4 (\$34; requires Mac OS X 10.5 or later) makes one of the best Mac file-transfer programs even better. Developers have given every inch of the program some kind of tweak. There's a brand-new interface with "tear-off" tabs, Cover Flow and thumbnail views, Quick Look support, and a new Places feature that gives you one-click access to your most-used folders. A new menu-bar icon lets you mount remote volumes on your desktop without launching Transmit itself. Speed improvements make the program up to 25 times faster—maybe the truck icon should be replaced with a sports car ([www.panic.com](http://www.panic.com)).—DAN MOREN



## CABLE STABLE DLX

Some of us pack for trips as though we're expecting to end up like the survivors on *Lost*. To tame that mess of cables and technological doo-dads, Skooba offers the \$40 Cable Stable DLX. It's a zippable bag that boasts a collection of 15 mesh pockets and elastic bands for organizing all your cords and power adapters, as well as gadgets like iPods, compact digital cameras, and even portable gaming devices. A handle makes it easy to carry, and an external pocket holds items such as your recovery disks ([www.skoobadesign.com](http://www.skoobadesign.com)).—DAN MOREN



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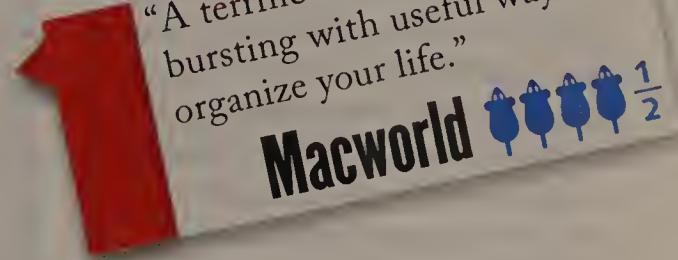
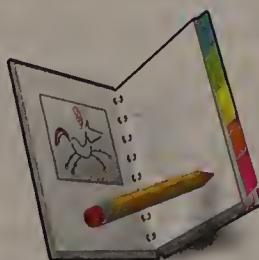
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## Travels with iPad

Two Macworld editors hit the road with their iPads along for the ride

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN AND JONATHAN SEFF

**M**uch has been made of the iPad's potential as a stand-in for a laptop whenever you leave the comfort of home. Two of us had the chance to put that potential into practice—one on a family vacation, the other on a business trip. Here's how the iPad fared.

### The iPad on Vacation

The drive from my California coastal hamlet to Yosemite Valley is approximately 2381 When-Are-We-Going-to-Get-Theres (or around five hours and change). To keep my daughter occupied, I loaded the iPad's Videos app with four movies and six Daffy Duck cartoons, installed Autodesk's SketchBook Pro ([macworld.com/6043](http://macworld.com/6043)), and even bought her an e-book from the iBookstore—*The Last Olympian*. I tried to find a copy at the local bookseller, but had no luck. The electronic version cost \$11—\$1.50 more than a physical copy from Amazon, but Apple's version was available then and there and took next to no time to download.

The iPad also served us in the front seat. Though I've made the Yosemite journey a couple of times, I like having a map at the ready, just in case. Before we left the house I plotted our route in the iPad's Maps app so that the list of turns was readily available to my impressed navigator.

After a day romping in nature, I relaxed before bed with a good e-book of my own—specifically half a dozen free titles prepared by the blessed Project Gutenberg. Even with a download speed of less than a megabit per second, each book downloaded in under a minute. Reading proved to be more of a challenge—holding a 1.5-pound iPad for long periods is far different from holding a book. I found the best



position was to place the iPad's left corner in the palm of my left hand and make a reverse L shape with the thumb and index finger of my right and rest the right corner in the crook between the two digits.

Although I was on vacation, messages from the office continued to appear in my inbox—specifically one with a PDF that required my attention. I used the iPad's Quick Look feature to open and read the attachment. But I couldn't copy text from it, nor would Mail let me transfer the file to another application that could edit the file.

I was generally satisfied with what the iPad could do, but I was also sometimes frustrated by its limitations. I take a lot of pictures while on these kinds of trips, and I longed for an iPad camera connector so I could view my pictures on something other than my camera's LCD. And, using

a Wi-Fi iPad, I missed a 3G connection. There were times when we were places where there was no Wi-Fi and, therefore, no way to make a connection to the Internet to conduct a short Web search for a bird we'd just spotted.

As an entertainment device, the iPad passed with colors mostly flying. It was also up to the task of keeping me in touch with the office and world around it. The iPad is the in-between that Apple claims it to be—more flexible than an iPod touch yet hardly a complete laptop substitute.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

### The iPad on a Business Trip

After my iPad made its 10,000-plus mile journey to my house—Shenzen, China; Guangzhou, China; Anchorage, Alaska; Louisville, Kentucky; Oakland, California;

San Francisco—what did I do with it three days later? Hop on a plane and add 2704 miles to its globetrotting efforts.

While waiting to board my flight, I flipped open the cover on the iPad case and began reading a free iBookstore download of James Joyce's *Ulysses* in iBooks. Though I was slightly more worried about spilling my lunch on my new iPad than I would have been with a book, reading was pretty enjoyable as the events of June 16, 1904, unfolded.

Because of flaky or costly airport Wi-Fi, I would have liked having 3G data access. I ended up pulling out my iPhone to check and respond to e-mail messages that I would rather have dealt with on the iPad.

Once on my flight to Boston, I used the KrossPath iPad app to solve a *Los Angeles Times* crossword puzzle, and read a few more "pages" of *Ulysses*. I then watched two hours' worth of downloaded TV shows, and then almost all of the movie *Monsters vs. Aliens*. After all that, I still had roughly 70 percent battery life remaining.

During a bit of downtime on my trip, I launched ABC Player ([macworld.com/6044](http://macworld.com/6044)) to watch a streaming version of the latest episode of *Lost*. The Wi-Fi in the hotel room provided an enjoyable viewing on the iPad, and the video quality was generally excellent.

Because I brought a laptop with me on my trip (running Adobe InCopy or handling a document stored in Dropbox is beyond the iPad's capabilities), I didn't lug along a Bluetooth keyboard for the iPad. Still, I found composing e-mail much easier on the iPad—especially with the large keyboard in landscape mode—than on the iPhone. I could type much faster and I made fewer mistakes.

Overall, I was pretty impressed with the iPad as a travel device. It's thin and lightweight, and fits easily in my backpack even with my MacBook and other items in there as well. It's not a complete laptop replacement, but it's a nice alternative for some trips.—JONATHAN SEFF



## The iPad's Charging Challenge

BY DAN FRAKES

If you try to connect your new iPad to some computers or USB chargers, you may see an unwelcome message—the words *Not Charging* in the iPad's menu bar.

Don't fret, though—your brand-new mobile device isn't damaged. It just has heftier charging requirements than iPods and iPhones. As a result, some USB ports—especially those on older computers and most USB hubs—don't provide enough power to charge the iPad during use. Whether lower-power USB ports can charge the iPad's battery—and how quickly—depends on how you use the device.

For the fastest charging, use the iPad's included 10W USB power adapter, which fully charges the iPad in a few hours. When connected to a high-power USB port—such as the ones on recent Macs and the iPhone power adapter—the iPad will charge, even during use, but more slowly. When connected to lower-power USB ports—those on older Macs, most Windows PCs, and most USB hubs—the iPad's battery will not charge while the iPad is awake, but will charge (slowly) when the iPad is asleep.

If you're interested in the specific power differences between the USB ports on older and newer Macs, Apple has published a support article (find it at [macworld.com/6040](http://macworld.com/6040)).

## iPads and iPhones: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
iPad	16GB	Wi-Fi, ; 3G,	Wi-Fi, \$499; 3G, \$629	9.7-inch color	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 3G	6000 Wi-Fi 6001 3G
	32GB	Wi-Fi, ; 3G,	Wi-Fi, \$599; 3G, \$729	9.7-inch color	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 3G	6002 Wi-Fi 6003 3G
	64GB	Wi-Fi, ; 3G,	Wi-Fi, \$699; 3G, \$829	9.7-inch color	Up to 10 hours on Wi-Fi; up to 9 hours on 3G	6004 Wi-Fi 6005 3G
iPhone 3G and 3GS	8GB (3G)		\$99	3.5-inch color	6 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	4184
	16GB (3GS)		\$199	3.5-inch color	9 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	4955
	32GB (3GS)		\$299	3.5-inch color	9 hours of Wi-Fi Internet; 5 hours of 3G talk time	4956
iPod Touch	8GB		\$199	3.5-inch color	30 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3864
	32GB		\$299	3.5-inch color	30 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	5257
	64GB		\$399	3.5-inch color	30 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	5258

<sup>A</sup>All prices are Apple's prices. <sup>B</sup>In a browser's address field, typing in a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) takes you to a product's review or overview.

# GumPlus™ Mobile Power Pack

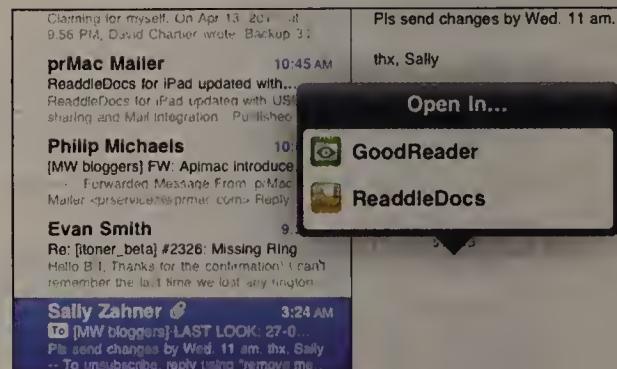
## Document Support Lets Apps Share the Load

BY MARCO TABINI

**L**et's say you get a word-processing document in your iPad's e-mail inbox. Tapping and holding the icon brings a pop-up menu that asks you if you just want to view the file in Quick Look or open it in Pages (assuming, of course, that you have a copy of that app installed on your device). That's all thanks to a new feature—Document Support—that Apple has quietly sneaked into version 3.2 of iPhone OS.

Document Support allows an app to "register" itself as the designated handler for a particular file type. Any app can then use the same functionality to discover whether another app can handle a file (and, subsequently, pass it along to that application).

The functionality has some significant implications for a platform like iPhone OS, where apps typically live in their own sandbox, so to speak. Document Support allows inter-app communication while



giving the app that owns a file complete control over whether it can be transferred elsewhere on your device.

Apple's own iWork suite for the iPad takes advantage of this feature, but the functionality is available to all developers. Already, apps like ReaddleDocs and GoodReader offer the ability to open documents they support from compatible apps, such as Mail.

The only bummer? Document Support works only on the iPad, not on the iPhone—at least for now.

## Funny Business: Apple Bars, Then OKs, Pulitzer Winner's App

BY SERENITY CALDWELL AND DAVID DAHLQUIST

For Mark Fiore, gaining the approval of the committee that selects Pulitzer Prize winners proved to be easier than getting an OK from the gatekeepers at Apple's App Store.

After winning the Pulitzer Prize for his editorial cartoons, the cartoonist mentioned in an interview with Nieman Journalism Lab ([macworld.com/6046](http://macworld.com/6046)) that he had been unable to get an iPhone app containing his cartoons onto the App Store. Apple's December 2009 letter said that apps "may be rejected if they contain content or materials of any kind . . . that in Apple's reasonable judgement may be found objectionable, for example, materials that may be considered obscene, pornographic, or defamatory."

A media firestorm ensued and Apple—apparently chastened by the criticism—OK'd Fiore's \$1 NewsToons ([macworld.com/6072](http://macworld.com/6072)). "It feels a little weird . . . like I got preferential treatment because of the Pulitzer and press hubbub because of the rejection of my app," Fiore told SFGate ([macworld.com/6047](http://macworld.com/6047)).

Apple never commented on the matter, though the *New York Times* reported that Steve Jobs called the app's rejection "a mistake" in an e-mail with an App customer. But what measures Apple is taking to avoid similar mistakes in the future is unclear.



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# Apple, Adobe Feud over Flash

BY NICHOLAS BONSACK

The arrival of a beta version of iPhone OS 4.0 and its corresponding developer tools has brought with it a new developer license agreement. And it's one that's put Adobe's Flash squarely in Apple's crosshairs.

First spotted by Daring Fireball's John Gruber ([macworld.com/6041](http://macworld.com/6041)), the amended license agreement requires that software OK'd for the App Store be written in one of a select few Apple-approved programming languages, all of which are supported by Apple's Xcode developer tools. That excludes the newly released Flash CS5 and its ability to let developers write applications in Flash and then build them for iPhone OS.

Adobe's not taking Apple's latest anti-Flash salvo well. Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen told the Fox



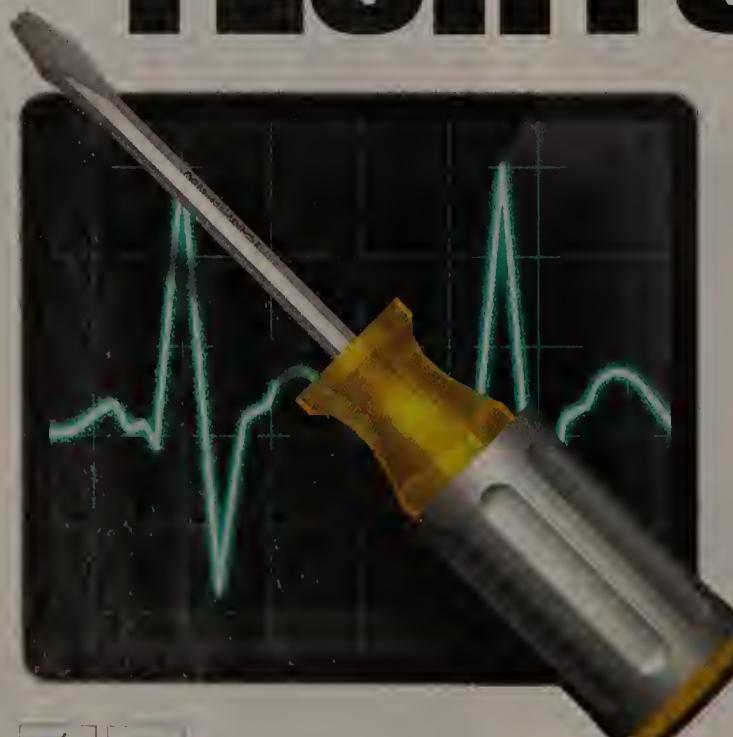
Business Network that Apple's move "hurts customers," while Adobe platform evangelist Lee Brimelow used his personal blog to suggest that Apple perform a physically impossible act on itself ([macworld.com/6042](http://macworld.com/6042)).

Adobe has since said it will no longer develop the Flash-to-iPhone feature in future versions ([macworld.com/6045](http://macworld.com/6045)). But how could the company expect this to play out any other way?

Even media giant Condé Nast saw the writing on the wall: though it has been developing a Flash Packager version of Wired for iPad, the evident friction between Apple and Adobe made it hedge its bets and develop a version using Apple's methods as well.

For better or worse, Apple now appears to have totally locked Flash out of the iPhone—Steve Jobs said as much in an open letter published in April that outlined Apple's criticisms of Adobe's technology ([macworld.com/6127](http://macworld.com/6127)). As a result, developers may not see a viable alternative to Xcode or HTML5 for a very long time.

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#### The reliable BE 525-RS

This unit features boost and trim AVR to accommodate unpredictable voltages. Auto shutdown software enables safe unattended shutdowns.

- 4 Outlets • 300 Watts/525 VA
- 46 Minutes Maximum Runtime
- Phone/Modem/Fax/DSL Protection



#### The affordable BE 700-RS

Auto shutdown software comes with this unit, allowing unattended safe shutdowns. The unit automatically saves files before shutting down.

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- 65 Minutes Maximum Runtime
- Phone/Modem/Fax/DSL Protection



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**APC**  
by Schneider Electric

# APP GUIDE

iPhone and iPod Touch Software  
That's Caught Our Eye

iPAD

## Flight Control HD 1.01

**GAMES** This flight-control game makes a marvelous transition to the iPad, a device for which it's perfectly suited. Gameplay remains essentially the same as in the iPhone version—you drag your finger to guide airplanes to a safe landing—but new maps add more-challenging, addictive air traffic control chaos than before. The graphics certainly improve thanks to the iPad's larger screen, but details and menus are also exceptionally well polished. It's clear that Firemint takes this new platform very seriously.—CHRIS HOLT

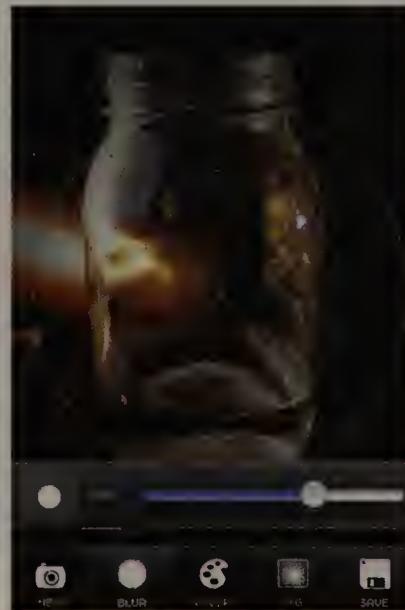
4½; \$5; [Firemint; macworld.com/6023](http://Firemint.com/6023)



## Touch-Fill-Go 1.1.7

**PRODUCTIVITY** This clever little pseudo-document scanner has a lot of potential. Using the iPhone's camera, you snap a photo of any form you need to fill out. Touch-Fill-Go then lets you write on your documents by typing into autodetected form fields and e-mailing the completed document anywhere as a PDF attachment. The app even lets you sign documents with your finger. Touch-Fill-Go would be perfect if it let you send documents directly into the app.—LEX FRIEDMAN

4½; \$3; [EarthLink; macworld.com/6031](http://EarthLink; macworld.com/6031)



## APP GEMS

### Headline News



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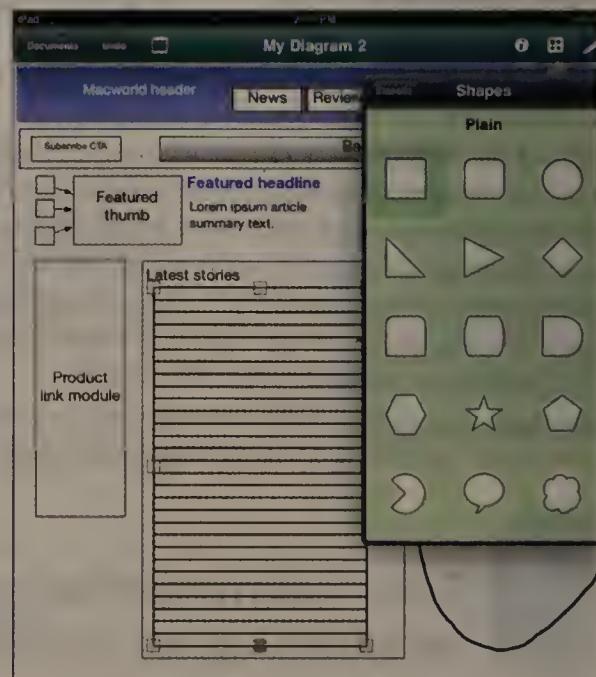
Find more news apps for your iPhone at [macworld.com/JC59](http://macworld.com/JC59)

iPAD

## OmniGraffle 1.1

**PRODUCTIVITY** Like its desktop counterpart, this iPad offering aims to help you express your ideas visually. Omni did a masterful job of translating all of the diagramming depth of the Mac software to the iPad. You'll need to adapt to OmniGraffle's different modes, and creating objects on the iPad can be slightly complex. But overall, creating and editing diagrams and wire frames feels fun and functional.—LEX FRIEDMAN

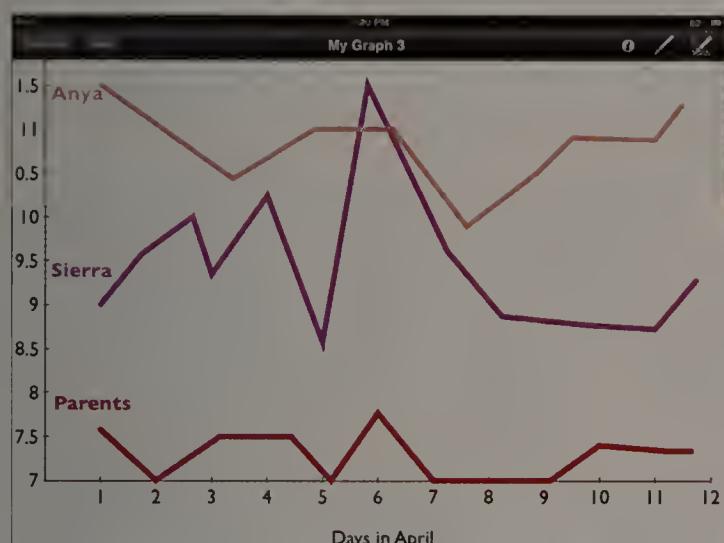
4½; \$50; [The Omni Group; macworld.com/6034](http://The Omni Group; macworld.com/6034)



## TiltShift Generator 1.30

**PHOTOGRAPHY** If you're looking to turn a simple iPhone snapshot into art, this iPhone and iPod touch photo editor is a great option. The app features a Blur tool for adjusting the focus exactly how you want it, with radial and linear blurs providing different effects. Once you've got the blur where you like, you can try out three color-adjustment tools. Share the finished product via e-mail, Twitter, or Facebook so that others can see the amazing results produced by TiltShift Generator.—JEFF PHILLIPS

4½; \$1; [Art & Mobile; macworld.com/5546](http://Art & Mobile; macworld.com/5546)



can tweak with a tap, add labels, and adjust other elements with relative ease. If you need to create eye-popping charts quickly, and you don't have too much data to plot, OmniGraphSketcher works wonders, and it's mostly a delight to use.—LEX FRIEDMAN  
4.5; \$15; The Omni Group; [macworld.com/6035](http://macworld.com/6035)

## Star Walk 4.2

**EDUCATION** Anyone interested in learning more about objects in space and Earth's relation to them should check out Star Walk, a feature-rich and absorbing astronomy app that's also intuitive enough for kids to easily navigate. If you've got an iPhone 3GS, tilt the phone skyward to activate the Star

Spotter view, which shows you what you are looking at in the sky from where you are at that moment. But the app has plenty of features for other iPhone and iPod touch users as well: A Time Machine view lets you see how celestial objects appear at various points in time, while an awesome 3D global view of Earth shows you a view of the planet as seen from space.—SUE VOELKEL

4.5; \$3; Vito Technology; [macworld.com/6032](http://macworld.com/6032)



## iPad OmniGraphSketcher 1.1

**PRODUCTIVITY** This iPad app puts the focus on creating beautiful charts and graphs with minimal effort. You can literally create a chart in minutes, simply by tracing or tapping the data points and letting the app take care of the rest. You

can tweak with a tap, add labels, and adjust other elements with relative ease. If you need to create eye-popping charts quickly, and you don't have too much data to plot, OmniGraphSketcher works wonders, and it's mostly a delight to use.—LEX FRIEDMAN  
4.5; \$15; The Omni Group; [macworld.com/6035](http://macworld.com/6035)

## ESSENTIAL APPS

### Math Club

Any one of these apps would be a fine addition to your mobile device ([macworld.com/6036](http://macworld.com/6036)).

 **HP 12C Financial Calculator**  This faithful re-creation of the HP-12C calculator outperforms the real thing.

 **PCalc RPN Calculator**  A slew of features makes this an appealing replacement for the iPhone's built-in calculator.

 **WolframAlpha**  Mobile app for computational knowledge engine now sports a more attractive price tag.

 **Mathemagics** Believe it or not, math can be fun.

## Raging Thunder 2 1.0.3

**GAMES** This retro racing game eschews realism for arcade-style fun. Not only are the controls tight and the tracks scenic, but the game features on-course Mario-Kart-esque upgrades like speed and armor boosters, and a much-appreciated online multiplayer mode. Polarbit has created a game that brings back the adrenaline-infused chaos of old-school racing games.—SARAH JACOBSSON

4.5; \$5; Polarbit; [macworld.com/6033](http://macworld.com/6033)



## More Reviews

See more iPhone and iPod touch apps we've tested at iPhone Central ([macworld.com/4164](http://macworld.com/4164)).

APPLICATION	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	RATING	FIND CODE*
<b>Articles 1.0.2</b> Sophistication Software	Wikipedia client	\$3		6071
<b>Call of Duty: World at War: Zombies for iPad</b> Activision	iPad game	\$15		6027
<b>MythBusters 1.0.3</b> Phunware	TV show clips and games	\$3		6028
<b>Pointstreak K-Force 1.5.100321</b> Pointstreak.com	baseball scorekeeper	\$10		6029
<b>Tweeteotites 1.0</b> Planetary Scale	Twitter app	\$1		6030

\* In your browser's address field, typing a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, [macworld.com/6071](http://macworld.com/6071) takes you to our review of Articles.

## App Guide

Get more reviews, including reader reviews, as well as listings for every iPhone app at AppGuide.com.



ILLUSTRATION BY JOE ZEFF DESIGN

# TOP MAC TIME SAVERS

THE THREE (OR FOUR) UTILITIES EVERY MAC USER SHOULD HAVE

Utilities may not help you write e-mail messages, browse the Web, or edit your photos. But they can make your computing life immensely easier, by helping you accomplish everyday computing tasks faster. There are all kinds of utilities out there. But a recent poll of *Macworld* editors concluded that there are three types that are truly *essential*.

An *application launcher* such as DragThing or LaunchBar makes it easier for you to open files and applications. A *text-expansion* tool such as TextExpander or TypeIt4Me enables you to insert text you type all the time—your phone number, say, or some HTML code—with a couple of keystrokes. And a *clipboard manager* improves on Mac OS X's built-in clipboard by letting you save more than one thing at a time to it.

(There were also some votes for *macro utilities*, which let you trigger complex computing tasks

with keyboard shortcuts; they're related to text expanders, but they do more. However, there was no consensus that they're truly *essential*.)

Assuming that you should have these three utilities, which specific ones are right for you? We asked *Macworld* editors Dan Frakes and Dan Miller, along with Senior Contributor Rob Griffiths, to survey those three categories and come back with recommendations for various types of users; we also had Senior Editor Christopher Breen survey macro utilities. And we asked Senior Contributor Joe Kissell to look at yet another kind of utility—the *uninstaller*. Many Mac owners use them, but some of us doubt their efficacy. Do they really do what they claim? Joe did some testing and has some answers.

The bottom line is that you really should have these three (or four) utilities, in some form, on your Mac. If they make using your Mac more efficient, and so save you time, why wouldn't you?





## TOP MAC TIMESAVERS

# APPLICATION LAUNCHERS

BY DAN MILLER

**C**hances are you launch apps and open files dozens of times a day. And if you're using the Dock, the Finder, or Spotlight to do so, chances are you could do so more efficiently.

That's why we think that every Mac user should have some kind of launcher—a utility that makes launching programs, opening files, and other everyday chores a lot easier. A launcher is one of the most useful utilities you can install on your Mac; for many of us, that's one of the first things we do whenever we get a new machine.

But choosing a launcher isn't as simple as it sounds. Here's how we'd walk you through that decision.

## Hands on the Mouse

If your hand spends more time on the mouse than on the keyboard, you should look at a mouse-driven launcher, such as Mabasoft's \$19 Application Wizard (; macworld.com/4874), Stunt Software's \$15 OverFlow (; macworld.com/4715), or TLA Systems' \$29 DragThing (; macworld.com/6083).

	Vers.	Updated
Abracadabra Triggers	107	09/01/06
AcidSearch Queries	36	09/01/06
AirPort Module	A4	01/06/06
Apple Address Book Module	146	09/22/07
Apple Mail Module	FE	09/01/06
Automator Module	50	12/02/07
Backpack Module	SD	09/01/06
BBEdit Module	28	09/01/06
Bezel Interface	1851	01/06/06
Bluetooth Module	28	09/01/06
BuddyPop Module	0.5.2	09/01/06
Calculator Module	1.3	03/24/06
Camino Module	96	09/01/06
Chat Support	4A	01/06/06
Clip Upload	44	07/15/07
Clipboard Module	89	09/01/06
CLIX Module	37	09/01/06
Clutter Artwork	28	01/06/06
Command Line Tool (qs)	0.6	09/01/06
Constellation Menus	1.0.4	09/24/06
Contact Support	6E	01/06/06
Core Support	0.5.0	01/06/06

**Quicksilver**  
 This heavy-weight, open-source utility needs better documentation to explain its setup.

All three let you create customized docks, in which you can place applications, folders, files, and more. You can do the same with OS X's own Dock. But Application Wizard, Overflow, and DragThing let you do more.

For one thing, OS X's Dock can only hold so many items before it gets unwieldy. These third-party utilities can accommodate more items.

Application Wizard does so by placing four colored buttons in a small panel on the side of the screen. Clicking on those buttons opens up four completely customizable menus that can hold as many items as you want. Overflow has a single dock, but you can create multiple *categories* within it; the number of categories and items within them is limited only by the size of your screen. DragThing lets you create multiple docks and multiple sections (layers) within them; you could, for example, create separate docks (or layers) for remote servers you regularly access, and another one for local folders.

Anything you can select in the Finder—applications, files, folders, and volumes—can reside in an Application Wizard menu or an Overflow dock. DragThing accommodates those items plus URLs and clippings (little bits of reusable text). If you put a container—such as a folder or volume—into a DragThing or Overflow dock, you can then drag items onto it to copy or move them there. DragThing folders are also spring-loaded (drag an item onto one and its contents will appear).

DragThing is by far the most powerful of the mouse-based launchers, followed by Application Wizard and Overflow; they follow that same order when it comes to the time it takes to set them up. Configuring DragThing can be a chore: For any given dock, you've got nearly 50 different options. Application Wizard isn't quite that bad, and Overflow is much, much simpler.

## Hands on the Keyboard

If you prefer the keyboard to the mouse, you could use Spotlight to find and launch apps, files, folders, and more. But

Spotlight is focused more on searching than launching.

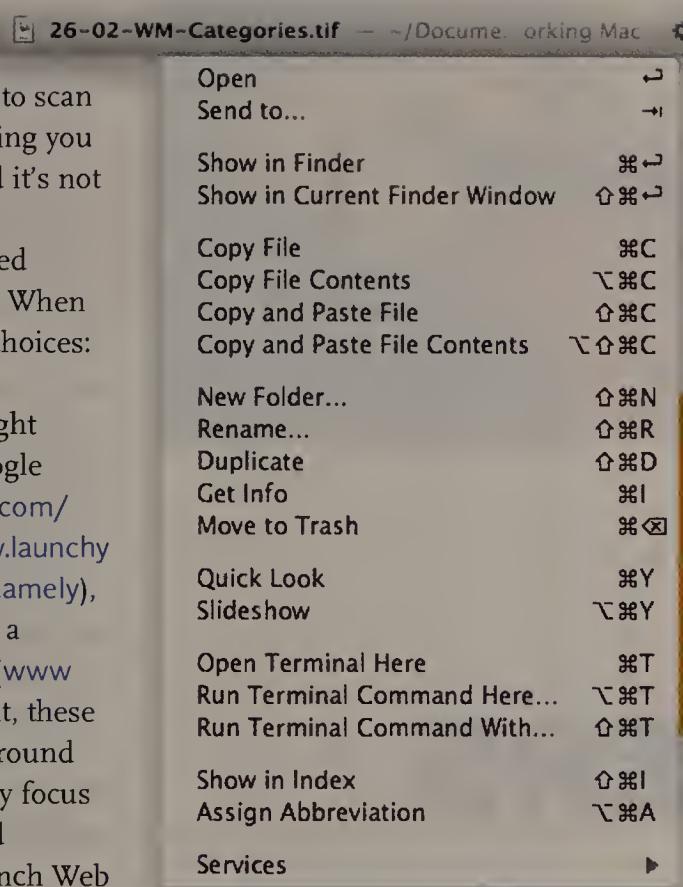
More often than not, you'll have to scan through its results to find the thing you want to open. It can be slow, and it's not particularly configurable.

So if you want a keyboard-based launcher, look beyond Spotlight. When you do, you'll find two kinds of choices: lightweight and heavyweight.

There are a bunch of lightweight options out there, including Google Quick Search Box ([www.google.com/quicksearchbox](http://www.google.com/quicksearchbox)), Launchy ([www.launchy.net](http://www.launchy.net)), Namely ([amarsagoo.info/namely](http://amarsagoo.info/namely)), TapTap ([www.tri-edre.com](http://www.tri-edre.com)), and a relatively new one called Alfred ([www.alfredapp.com](http://www.alfredapp.com)). Unlike Spotlight, these utilities are designed from the ground up as launchers: They specifically focus on finding and opening files and applications. (Some can also launch Web searches.) They're easy to set up and use. And because they maintain their own indexes, they're quick.

But for some users, these lightweight launchers are *too* light. For example, if one of them finds a file, it might let you open it in the Finder but not launch it in an associated app. If you want more flexibility in what you find and what you can do with it, you need one of the *heavyweight* launchers: Many Tricks' \$20 Butler (; [macworld.com/1246](http://macworld.com/1246)), Objective Development's \$35 LaunchBar (; [macworld.com/6122](http://macworld.com/6122)), or the free, open-source Quicksilver (; [macworld.com/1247](http://macworld.com/1247)).

Those three ably handle the simple stuff—finding and opening files and applications—but they often do a better job of it than their lighter competitors. For example, they can learn what you want. If you type **xl** and then select Excel from the resulting list often enough, Excel will eventually start appearing at the top of your results list. The heavyweight launchers can also do more with what they find. When Quicksilver finds a file, for



instance, it can perform 21 separate actions on it, from opening it in a chosen app to copying or moving it; Butler and LaunchBar give you similar flexibility. You can also use all three to initiate Web searches, perform quick calculations, insert text snippets, manage your clipboard history, and more.

All three are also almost infinitely configurable—to too much so, for some users. (Butler's configuration screen is particularly daunting; the vendor says that it will be revamped later this year.) You can assign hotkeys to almost anything, customize the look and feel,

and much more. Fortunately, each of them works pretty well as is, so you don't need to spend too much time wading through those configuration screens if you don't want to.

## Macworld's Buying Advice

For people whose hands are on the mouse more than on the keyboard,

Overflow is a good basic choice. If you need something more powerful and are willing to spend the time configuring it, try DragThing.

For keyboardists who want a simple way to open files and launch

apps (and not much else), almost any of the lightweight options is worth a trial run; though it's still in beta, Alfred looks particularly promising.

If you want to do more, try LaunchBar. It's well supported, with good documentation. It's extremely flexible, yet its configuration screen won't make you scream. Quicksilver's interface and documentation aren't great; for an app as powerful but quirky as this, they should both be better. Also, Quicksilver has become unstable for many users, particularly with Snow Leopard. Butler is incredibly powerful, perhaps the most customizable of the bunch; if its coming revamp solves the interface problem, it should be every bit as good as, if not better than, LaunchBar.





## TOP MAC TIMESAVERS

# TEXT EXPANDERS

BY ROB GRIFFITHS

**W**hatever kind of work you do on your Mac, it probably requires thousands of keystrokes a day. That's why every Mac user should install some kind of text-expansion utility.

These programs let you assign abbreviations to chunks of text or graphics. (Those chunks are usually called *expansions* or *snippets*.) Type the abbreviation, followed by some kind of trigger key, and the full expansion replaces the abbreviation. So, instead of typing out your e-mail address every time it's required, you can type a short abbreviation, then the trigger, and the address will appear.

The Text tab in Mac OS X 10.6's Language & Text system preference lets you define keyboard shortcuts for text snippets. But third-party text expanders can do much more.

There are four main ones to consider: Rainmaker Research's \$30 Spell Catcher X (●●●; macworld.com/6117), SmileOn-MyMac's \$35 TextExpander 3.0.1 (●●●; macworld.com/6123), Ettore Software's \$27 TypeIt4Me 5.0 (●●●; macworld.com/6118), and Ergonis's €20 Typinator 3.7 (●●●; macworld.com/6116). You might also include keyboard macro

utilities, which can also insert text. But because they can do much more than that, like executing actions, I consider them a separate category (see "Automation Utilities").

## The Basics

All four programs do what they say they can do with basic, plain-text expansions. Even a more complex (and somewhat unrealistic) test case—pasting 1500 words of text, and inserting a couple of date and time references within it—worked well in all of them. All but Spell

**Typinator** The text-entry box can't expand, which can make adding snippets harder than in other text-expansion tools.

Catcher support snippets containing rich text and images, as well as plain text.

But before any of these programs will expand anything for you, you have to define some abbreviations and their full-form expansions. TypeIt4Me and TextExpander have the cleanest setup interfaces. Both feature a freely expandable expansions box, which makes it easy to add longer text clippings. TextExpander and TypeIt4Me also let you create new shortcuts from within any application, using global hotkeys. TextExpander and Spell Catcher allow you to create a new expansion based on the current selection; and TextExpander and TypeIt4Me allow you to do so with items on the clipboard.

If you use more than one Mac, TextExpander alone has a preference that lets you sync snippets, using MobileMe or Dropbox. You may be able to use Dropbox or another service to sync snippet collections from the others, but doing so isn't as easy as it is in TextExpander.

## Beyond the Basics

Once you've used a text expander for a while, you'll start to see ways to use it beyond these basics.

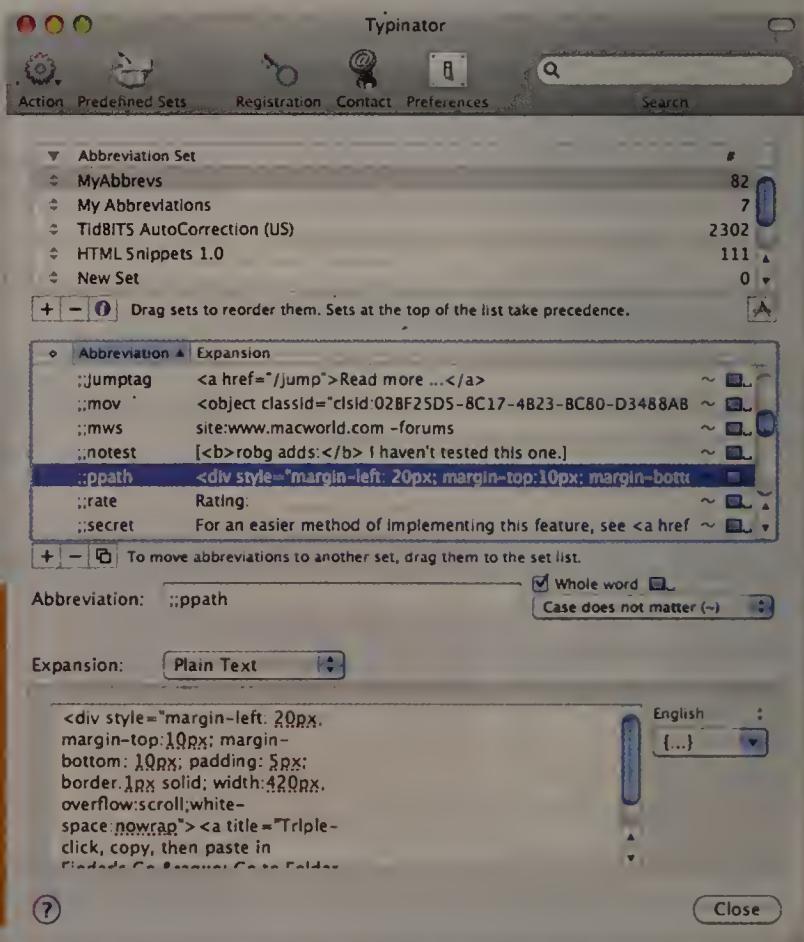


ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN UELAND

# AUTOMATION UTILITIES

By CHRISTOPHER BREEN

For years, Mac users who were tired of performing the same mind-numbing tasks over and over again used automation utilities (aka, macro utilities) to make life easier. Such programs used triggers—keyboard actions, timers, or system events—to initiate actions that you configured. So, for example, you could create a macro that, when you pressed a couple of keys from any app, would open a new Finder window in Icon view.

With the advent of Mac OS X, AppleScript, and Automator, those tools became less popular. But they do still exist, in the form of Plum Amazing's \$30 iKey (; macworld.com/6120), Stairways Software's \$36 Keyboard Maestro (; macworld.com/6119), and Startly Technologies' \$60 QuicKeys 4 (; macworld.com/6121).

QuicKeys has been around the longest—since before the birth of Mac OS X—and it has the broadest feature set. Keyboard Maestro was originally developed by Michael Kamprath; Stairways Software bought it and added an easier-to-use interface and some powerful new features. iKey also has a long history, but its features have fallen behind those found in QuicKeys and Keyboard Maestro.

## Setup

All three utilities divide the macro process into three stages: You define where the macro can be activated (in all applications or just specific ones), what will trigger it (a keyboard combination, a system event, or something else), and what it will do.

Keyboard Maestro has a clean, three-column interface made up of Groups (collections of macros), Macros (the macros contained in the group), and an editor window where you define

triggers and actions. Within that window, you can enable or disable groups and macros, and also click a Record button to capture sequences of clicks and keyboard presses as macros. QuicKeys also presents its macros as collections in a Library pane, with the inner workings of those macros—the shortcuts, abbreviations, toolbars, and clips—displayed in the main portion of the QuicKeys Editor window. The interface in iKey is the most constrained, presenting all three stages in a smallish window.

## In Action

All three allow you to create both simple and complex macros. All three can trigger AppleScripts; QuicKeys and Keyboard Maestro can execute Unix scripts, too. Beyond those similarities, the programs begin to differentiate.

QuicKeys includes a Clips feature where you can store text or images and create shortcuts that insert them. You could, for example, create a clip of your company logo and insert it into a letter or e-mail message with the press of a key. Keyboard Maestro's Clipboards feature is similar, but harder to set up.

QuicKeys also lets you add decision points to your macros. For example, say that one of the

**Keyboard Maestro** The setup screen has three panes, for groups, macros, and the editor.

steps in a macro could be interrupted by a dialog box; you can create a step that looks for the window and, if it appears, lets you change the macro's subsequent behavior. Keyboard Maestro and iKey don't allow that kind of conditional execution.

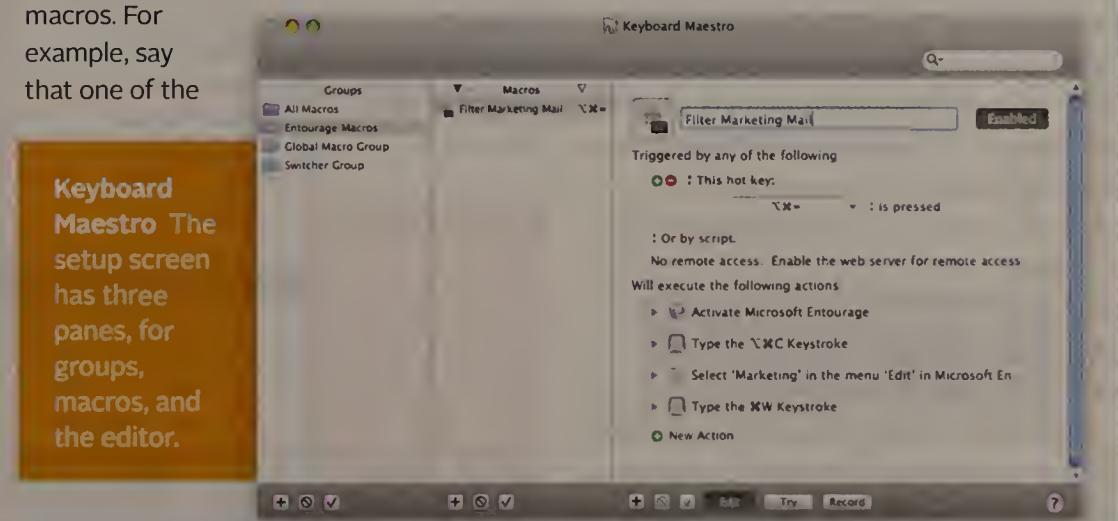
And QuicKeys has Web Actions—a way to identify and interact with elements you find on Web pages: You can enter text in fields, activate buttons, and more. Not all Websites provide the information the Web Actions feature requires, so it's a hit or miss situation. But when it works, it can be a real timesaver.

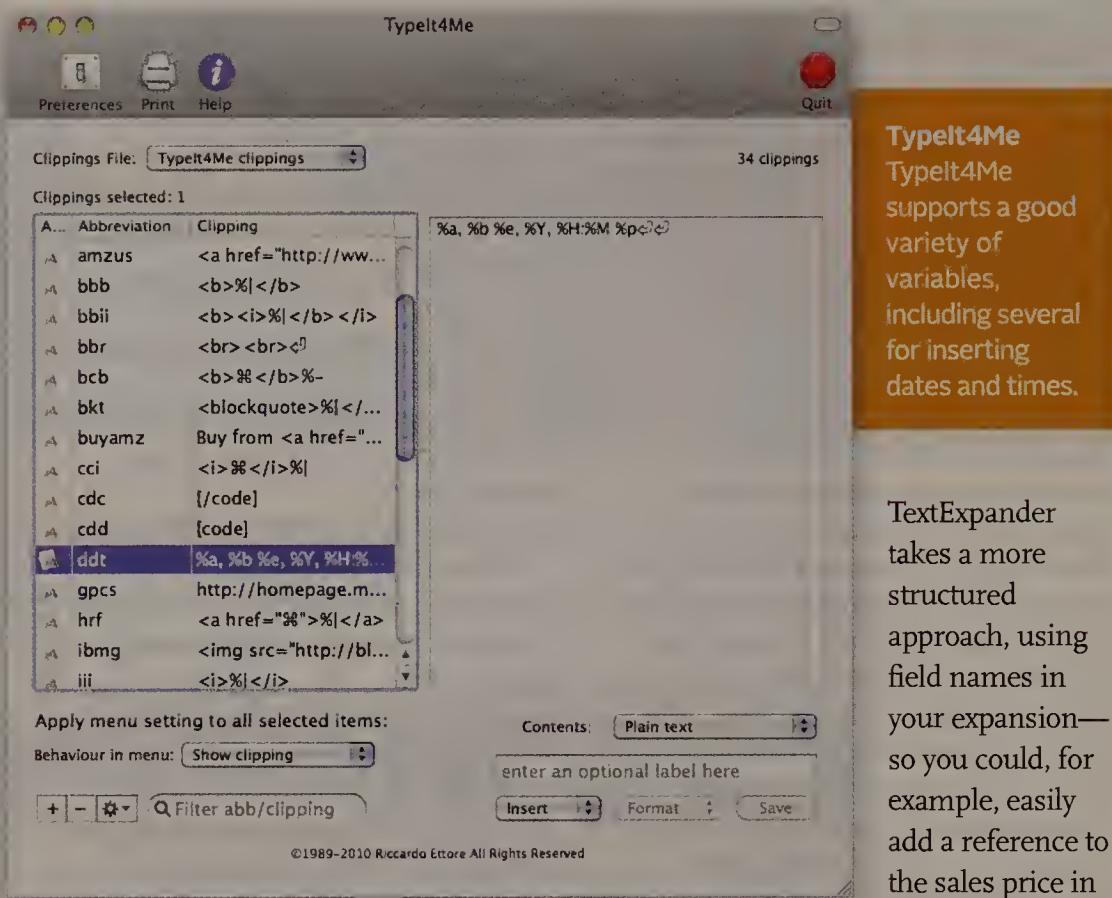
Keyboard Maestro has its unique charms, too. As with QuicKeys, you can trigger a macro with a MIDI event (playing Middle C on your musical keyboard, for example). It also has an action that plops a Google search field in the middle of your Mac's display. Enter your search term, press Return, and your browser launches and displays the results. You can also use Growl to insert actions that display a message. There's even an action for applying a BBEdit Text Factory to your files.

Of the three, iKey is the only one that can't do text expansion à la TextExpander and TypeIt4Me. Also, unlike with QuicKeys and Keyboard Maestro, iKey has no iPhone app that enables you to trigger macros on your Mac from your iPhone or iPod touch.

## Macworld's Buying Advice

Of these macro utilities, the one you choose will depend largely on your budget and how complex you want your macros to be. All three are fine programs, with QuicKeys and Keyboard Maestro providing the greatest flexibility.





For example, all four programs allow you to insert the current date and time. TextExpander, however, is the only program that supports date and time math: You can define a snippet variable that adds to or subtracts from an inserted date or time, making it easy to insert the date two days from today, for example. All four also let you embed special characters, such as Tab or Return, into snippets—handy if you want to define expansions that will help you complete Web forms; in most browsers, a Tab will move the cursor from one field to the next.

Both TextExpander and TypeIt4Me enable you to create expansions that pause for user input. For example, you could create a shortcut named *salesreply* that expands into something like *Thank you for your interest in [product], which we sell for [price]; we currently have [units] available for sale*. When you trigger the expansion, you'll be prompted to input the bracketed variables. (The brackets are just an example; each program has its own variable formatting.)

TypeIt4Me simply inserts pauses at each spot you indicate; you type whatever you want, and then press Tab or Right Arrow to continue to the next insertion spot.

spot. When you run the expansion, TextExpander pops up a dialog box, where you can fill in the data for each field.

All of these utilities except for Spell Catcher let you define where the cursor should be after your snippet is inserted. Let's say you want to create a snippet that takes the contents of the Clipboard and inserts it as proper HTML code: `<a href="#">[CLIPBOARD]</a>`. If you could add a cursor-placement variable to it—`<a href="#">[CLIPBOARD]<-[CURSOR]</a>`—then, when you inserted the snippet, your cursor would appear just before the `</a>`, ready for you to add link text.

**TextExpander**  
This utility lets you quickly create snippets of HTML coding and other complex text.

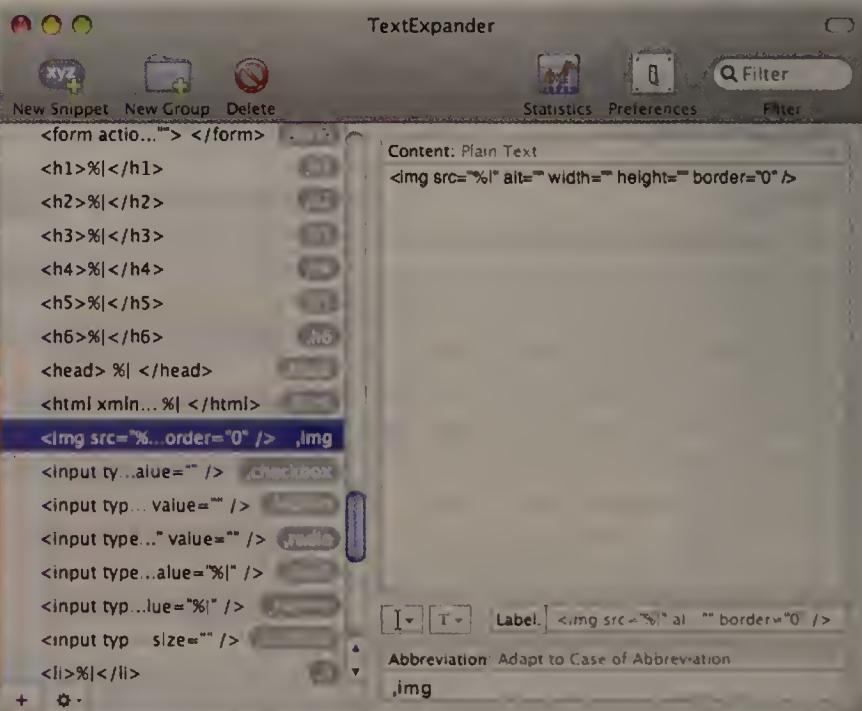
Only TextExpander and TypeIt4Me enable you to define AppleScripts as snippets; only TextExpander lets you use shell scripts, too. These capabilities put those two a step beyond the other text-expansion utilities.

### Macworld's Buying Advice

All four of these programs are good. Spell Catcher X is an incredibly powerful systemwide spelling checker with a huge collection of dictionaries. It's text-expansion capabilities, though, are the weakest of the group. Typinator is a solid third place; it does many things well, but it lacks some of the advanced features that the others have.

That leaves TextExpander and TypeIt4Me. Both are exceptionally good utilities, and nearly mirror each other feature for feature—you won't go wrong with either one. The overall win, however (this time at least), goes to TextExpander, because of its support for syncing, creating expansions from selected text, and executing shell scripts in expansions. These features push it slightly ahead of TypeIt4Me, and help justify its higher price tag.

Whichever text-expansion utility you choose, though, the important thing is that you *do* choose one: If your work requires intensive typing at all, your hands and wrists will thank you.



# DO UNINSTALLERS WORK?

BY JOE MISELL

**R**emoving Mac applications should be easy. In theory, you just drag the application to the Trash. But more often than not that leaves behind residue: not just the occasional preference or cache file, but sometimes gigabytes of stuff scattered all over your disk.

There are several uninstaller utilities out there that claim they can remove every last vestige of an app from your drive. But can they *really*? To find out, I did a little testing.

## The Tests

I chose four utilities to test: Koingo's \$20 Amnesia ([koingosw.com](http://koingosw.com)), Reggie Ashworth's \$8 AppDelete ([macworld.com/2448](http://macworld.com/2448)), Austin Sarner and Brian Ball's \$13 AppZapper ([www.appzapper.com](http://www.appzapper.com)), and Synium's \$15 CleanApp ([www.synium.de](http://www.synium.de)). To test each one, I tried installing and uninstalling a variety of software packages, including Adobe Creative Suite 4, BBEdit 9.3.1, Devon-Think Pro Office 2.0.2, the Google Earth/Google Chrome bundle, Intego's Internet Security Barrier X6, Microsoft Office 2008, and Flip4Mac WMV Player.

In each case, I installed the software, applied available updates, and ran it once to give it the opportunity to install additional files. Next I ran an uninstaller (accepting its default choices), restarted, emptied the Trash (if necessary), and used Baseline (; [macworld.com/6115](http://macworld.com/6115)) to compare the disk's before and after states. I then repeated this process for each permutation of application and uninstaller.

The dismaying result: No uninstaller removed *all* the pieces of the software packages I tested. The good news:

Almost without exception, uninstallers failed by leaving, not deleting, too much.

For example, take my experience with Adobe CS4. The full install added 8.4GB of data to my disk, storing thousands of files in more than a dozen different locations. Adobe's own uninstaller, which comes with CS4, removed far more of the files than any of the third-party tools did. Yet it still left behind 501MB of data. Adobe's support site offers another tool, CS4 Clean Script ([macworld.com/6089](http://macworld.com/6089)), which is designed to remove this additional residue. But it didn't work on my system.

Among the other installers, results on CS4 varied significantly. In terms of disk space recovered, Amnesia was second only to Adobe's uninstaller, leaving 1.19GB of installed files on my disk. AppDelete and AppZapper both left 2.48GB of data in place. CleanApp

removed a bit more data than AppDelete and AppZapper, though not as much as Amnesia: It left 2.37GB behind.

Results were similar for other programs I tried to uninstall. In general, the uninstallers provided by the developer—Adobe CS4, Internet Security Barrier X6, and Flip4Mac WMV Player—did the best job. Microsoft's uninstaller for Office 2008 failed to remove anything in my testing, though it has worked correctly for me before.

The uninstallers disagreed on what should go. When uninstalling the Google Earth/Chrome bundle, all except CleanApp left behind components of Google Software Update. I might want to keep those components if I had other Google software installed. But the intention here was to delete everything that came with those programs, so in this respect the utilities failed.

Amnesia tended to miss more components than the others did; its superior performance with CS4 was anomalous. AppDelete and AppZapper were consistently similar in accuracy; they typically found more components than Amnesia but fewer than CleanApp.

## Uninstalling Safely

No single method can address every situation, but I have some general recommendations:

➤ Before you uninstall any software, make sure you have good backups. That way, if you accidentally delete something you need, you can retrieve it easily.

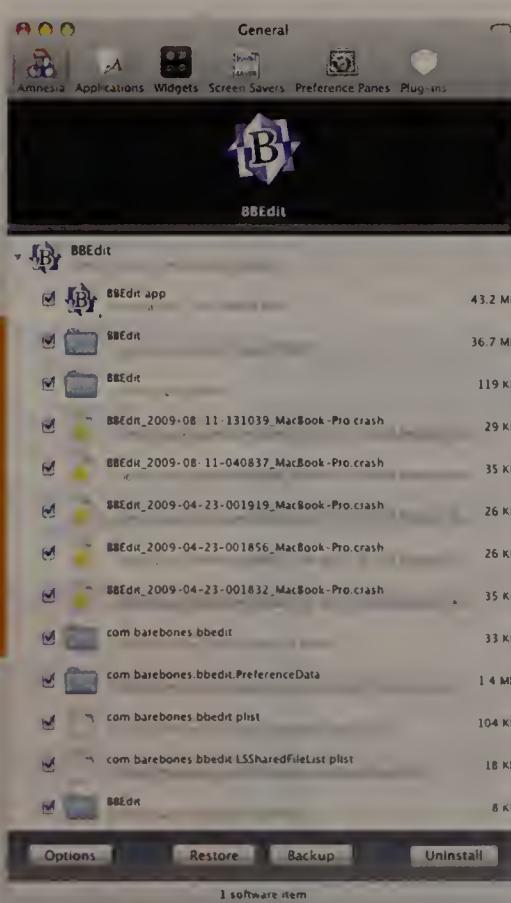
➤ If an app has its own uninstaller, try it first. It's most likely to remove what you want to get rid of without endangering files you want to keep.

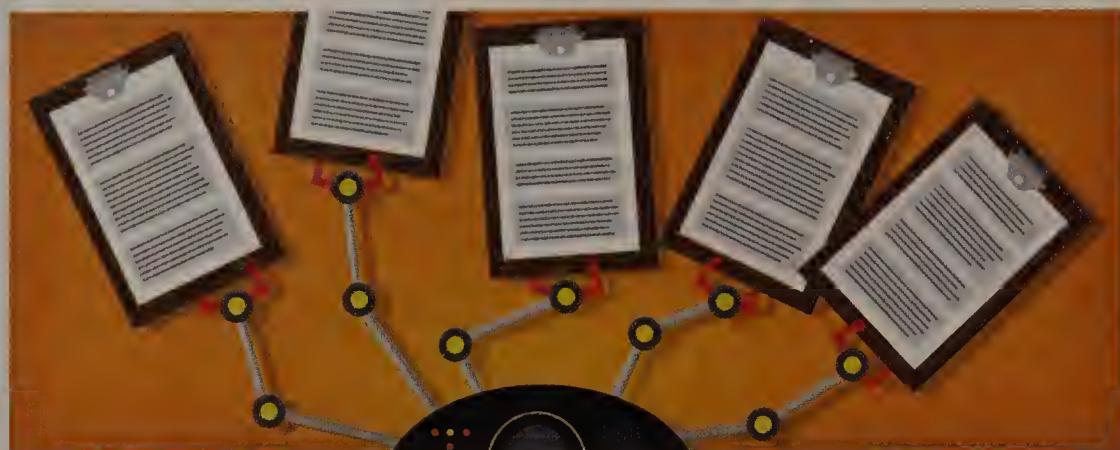
➤ When using an uninstaller, carefully review the files it proposes to delete. Err on the side of leaving files in place.

➤ Consider using a utility that monitors software as you install it or lets you compare your disk before and after an installation. CleanApp is the only one of these four that does so.

➤ Don't worry about getting rid of every last crumb—because you won't be able to and it probably won't make any real difference. If you find some support files that you aren't sure you can safely delete, chances are they'll do no harm if you leave them where they are.

**Amnesia**  
Before it  
uninstalls an  
app, Amnesia  
will show you  
the files it  
thinks go with  
the program.





## TOP MAC TIMESAVERS

# CLIPBOARD MANAGERS

BY DAN FRAKES

**M**ost of us take Mac OS X's clipboard for granted. We assume that when we select something, press ⌘-C or ⌘-X, and then go somewhere else and press ⌘-V, whatever we've copied or cut will be pasted.

But the clipboard has one big shortcoming: It stores only a single bit of data at a time—the most recent thing you've copied or cut. This not only limits productivity, but also makes it easy to *lose* data: How many times have you cut some text, intending to paste it elsewhere, and then absentmindedly copied another bit of text, thus losing the first bit?

For these reasons, third-party clipboard managers—which can store multiple recent *clips*—is one of the most useful utilities you can install on your Mac. Once you do, you won't have to worry about overwriting whatever else is on the clipboard; if you've copied or cut something recently, it's available for pasting. And if you need to cut and paste multiple sections of text, you can cut each one in turn, and then paste them wherever and in whatever order you want.

There are many clipboard utilities available for Mac OS X. I've tested five of the best ones: Naotaka Morimoto's free ClipMenu ([www.clipmenu.com](http://www.clipmenu.com)), Plum

ClipMenu is a simple but effective clipboard manager. It displays a list of recent clips in a scrollable window. Each clip is numbered and includes a preview of its content. You can click on a clip to paste it directly into your current application. The interface is clean and minimalist, focusing on functionality.

**CuteClips**  
CuteClips lets you paste multiple clips, in the sequence you choose, simultaneously.

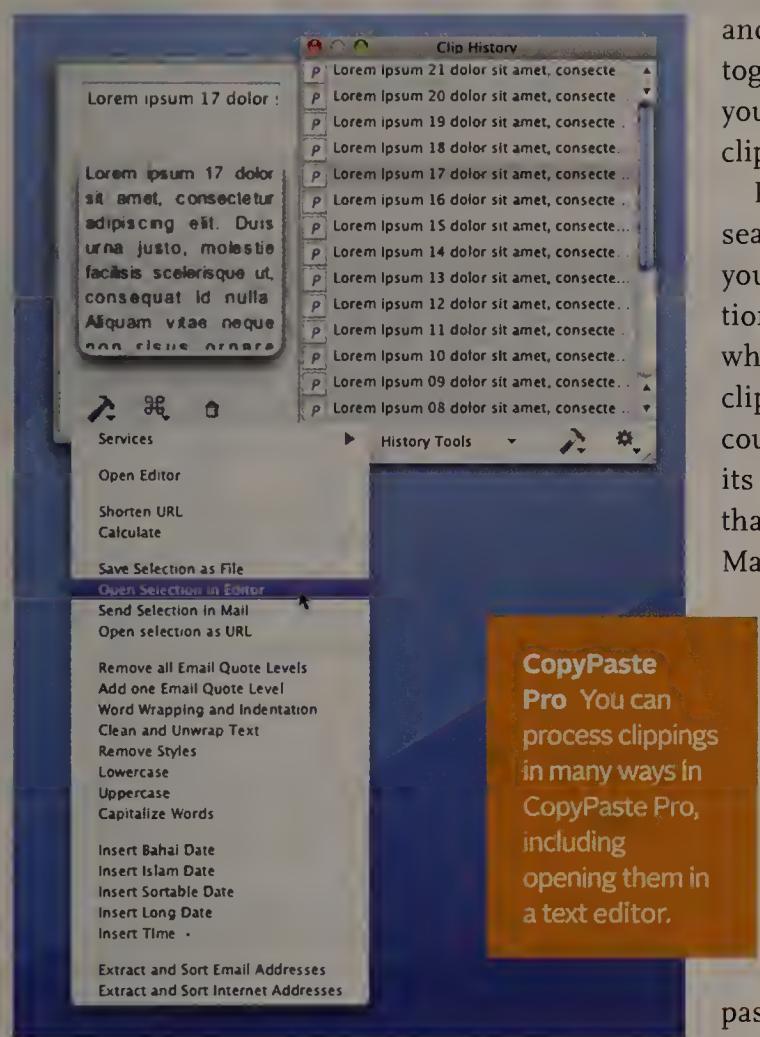
Amazing's \$30 CopyPaste Pro ([www.plumamazing.com](http://www.plumamazing.com)), BrikSoftware's \$15 CuteClips (; [macworld.com/6088](http://macworld.com/6088)), Steve Cook's free Jumpcut (; [macworld.com/4662](http://macworld.com/4662)), and PTH Consulting's \$25 PTHPasteboard Pro (; [macworld.com/5617](http://macworld.com/5617)). They range from simple and straightforward to flexible and powerful. Here's how they compare.

## Essential Features

To be truly useful, a multiple-clipboard program should maintain a lengthy history of cuts and copies. Jumpcut and CopyPaste Pro store the most-recent 99 and 200 clips, respectively; PTHPasteboard Pro and ClipMenu provide unlimited histories. CuteClips stores as many clips as will fit in its display, so the number depends on the size of your screen.

To access the clips, all five utilities offer a systemwide menu: You click the menu icon to view recent clipboard contents, then choose one to paste into the active application. But they also offer other ways to see your clips. CopyPaste, CuteClips, and Jumpcut have an on-screen, semitransparent overlay that appears on command and lets you cycle through saved clips. PTHPasteboard can also display them in a standard, always visible window. CopyPaste Pro gives you additional access through an optional floating palette (which appears when you move the cursor to a particular part of your screen) and through the program's Dock menu. You can also access clips via keyboard and mouse shortcuts.

OS X's built-in clipboard works with a variety of clip formats; some of these third-party utilities are more limited. CopyPaste Pro, CuteClips, and PTHPasteBoard Pro can work with text, images, media, and Finder files, while ClipMenu supports only text and images, and Jumpcut only text. All five can preserve or strip text formatting when pasting—the latter is useful when you're pasting a clip into a document with different formatting.



## Advanced Functionality

All of these utilities can do more than just preserve your clippings.

ClipMenu, CopyPaste Pro, and PTHPasteboard Pro let you format and process text content before pasting—for example, enabling you to remove quotation marks from text you copied from an e-mail message, or allowing you to change capitalization. CopyPaste Pro has the most built-in options, plus tools for extracting e-mail addresses and URLs from clips, and it lets you manually edit clips before pasting. PTHPasteBoard Pro, however, lets you create custom text filters that can perform sophisticated combinations of transformations; actions include “smartening” quotation marks and running text through shell scripts.

All but Jumpcut enable you to save snippets of frequently used text, making it easy to paste boilerplate text into documents. CopyPaste Pro and PTHPasteboard Pro let you create multiple sets of clips. CopyPaste Pro and CuteClips allow you to assign keyboard shortcuts to particular clips,

and can paste multiple clips together; CuteClips even lets you choose the sequence of clips to paste.

PTHPasteboard Pro has a search field for finding text in your clips; detailed information about when, and from where, you copied or cut each clip; and word and character counts. But for many people, its most appealing feature is that it can sync clips between Macs—if you copy something on your MacBook, that text appears in PTH-Pasteboard on your iMac, as well.

One often-overlooked drawback to clipboard utilities is that they could pose a security risk. For example, if you copy the security code (aka, password) for your online-banking account, it will be

accessible to anyone who obtains access to your clipboard utility. To enable you to work around this security concern, Jumpcut lets you clear your entire clipboard history; that's certainly secure, but also potentially inconvenient. The other four utilities let you delete individual clips. ClipMenu and PTH-Pasteboard Pro go one step further, letting you exclude particular programs—for example, 1Password—so that content copied from those programs is never saved.

**PTHPasteboard Pro**  
One of this utility's unique features lets you sync clippings between Macs.

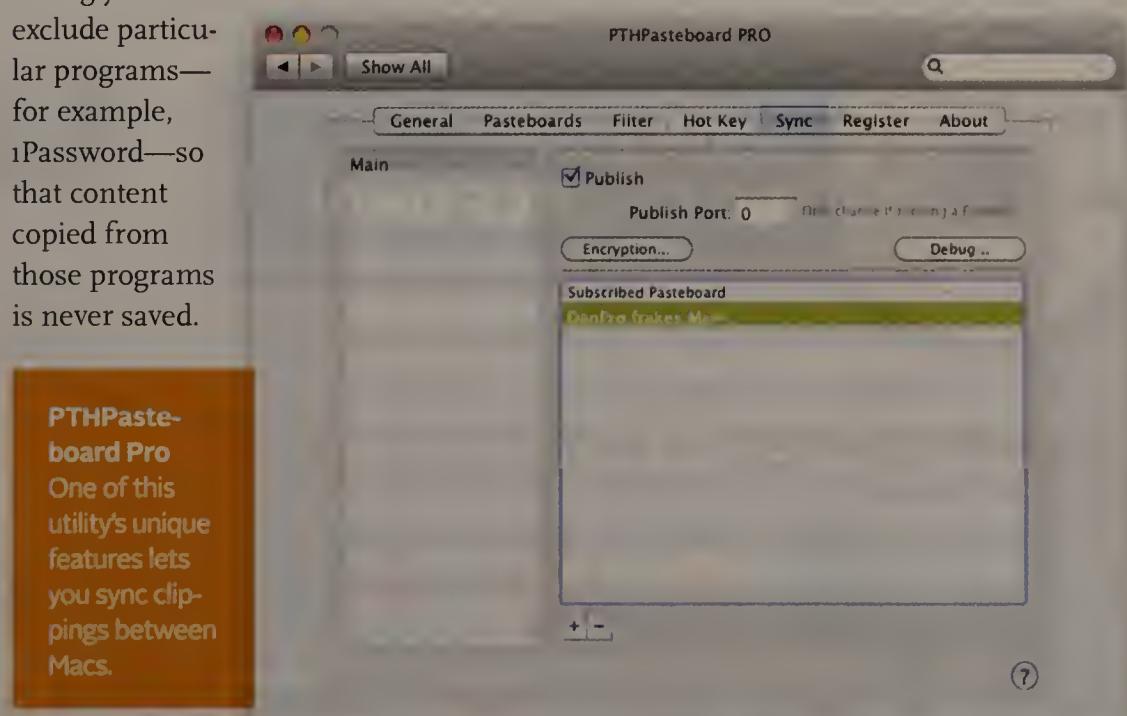
## Macworld's Buying Advice

Frankly, all five of these programs are worth recommending. Each one has something unique going for it.

If you're new to clipboard managers, and if most of your copying and pasting operations involves text, go with Jumpcut. It has fewer features than the others, but it gets the basics right and is the simplest to use. (It's also free, making it an excellent starter clipboard utility.)

CuteClips is a small step up from Jumpcut in functionality, supporting more types of content and providing better previews. ClipMenu adds text-processing features and more flexibility. CopyPaste Pro and PTHPasteboard Pro are the clear winners in the features department; CopyPaste Pro offers more options for viewing and editing clips, while PTHPasteboard Pro—my personal choice—provides features such as clip syncing, searching, and stats that will appeal to wordsmiths.

(Note that if you're already using a launcher such as LaunchBar or Butler, you may already have all the Clipboard manager you need. For example, LaunchBar includes a Clipboard History feature that can save the previous 40 Clipboard contents for convenient pasting; a nifty ClipMerge option—press ⌘-C twice—lets you append selected text to the current Clipboard content.)



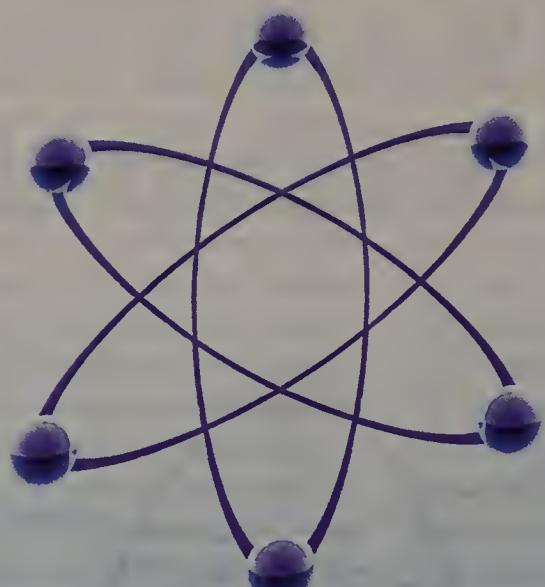
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**T**o some people, bookmarks are passé. Why keep a static list of URLs in your browser, when Twitter, Facebook, and RSS feeds dynamically deliver links to us, for sites we may have never visited or otherwise even heard of? It's true: The old bookmark list has had its day as the primary navigational tool on the Web. But links are still the coin of the digital realm, the things we pass along when we tell our Twitter followers (or blog readers), "Hey, check this out."

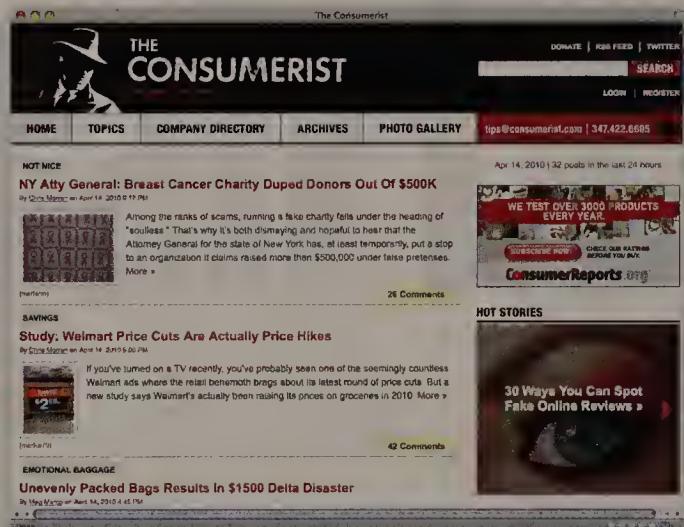
It's in that spirit of sharing that we've compiled the following list of Websites, RSS feeds, and Twitter streams. They're the sites, feeds, and streams that *Macworld* editors recommend to their own friends and colleagues, on topics ranging from the Mac and technology news to information for smart consumers and perplexed parents. So even if you don't actually bookmark them, do check them out and pass them along.

## Five Sites for Smart Consumers

» Whatever our tax brackets, political affiliations, and tastes in music might be, we all have one thing in common: We're all consumers. And whether we're buying necessities, splurging on luxuries, or dealing with everyday financial challenges, the least we can do is be savvy about it.—DAN FRAKES

### THE CONSUMERIST

The Consumerist blog ([consumerist.com](http://consumerist.com)), which covers a wide range of pro-consumer issues, started as a cog in the Gawker Media machine. But it eventually became so popular—and so respected—that the site was purchased by Consumers Union, the organization behind *Consumer Reports* ([www.consumerreports.org](http://www.consumerreports.org)). The site has become a sort of crowd-sourced Better Business Bureau: It hosts reader reports about companies that mistreat their customers and covers all kinds of other personal finance issues. How influential is The Consumerist? Horror stories about vendors are often followed up with posts along the lines of, "After The Consumerist posted my letter, the CEO of Company X contacted me directly...."



### ConsumerSearch

If you're looking for reviews of Macs, iPods, iPhones, and related products, you know where to go ([macworld.com](http://macworld.com)). But for everything else, the best place to start is ConsumerSearch ([www.consumerssearch.com](http://www.consumerssearch.com)). For a given type of product—say, LCD TVs—the editors at this metasite gather review information from all over the Web, compile it into a comprehensive report (ranking each source according to credibility), and provide recommendations—best overall, best value, best budget model, and more. A full report for each product type provides background information and useful buying advice.

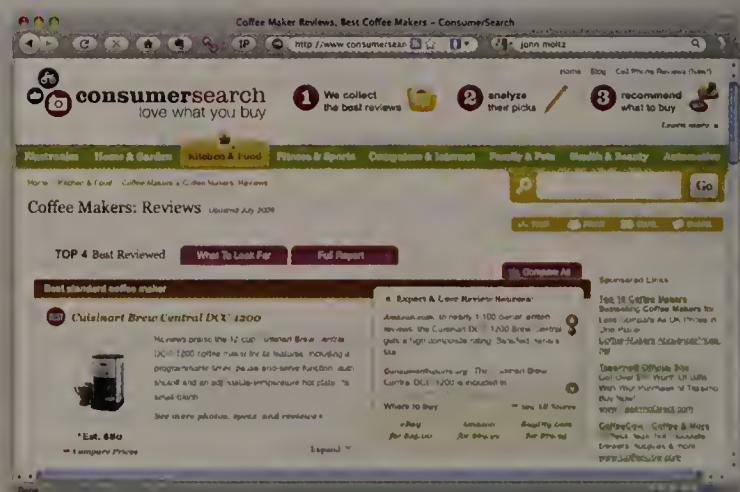
### U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC)

The CPSC site ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)) isn't pretty, and it certainly isn't fun to read. But if you're thinking of buying almost any kind of product—for your child or household, or for outdoor, sports, or recreational use, in particular—the site can be invaluable. It provides browsable and searchable safety tips and product-recall information, and it gives you a place to report unsafe products. The agency also publishes Web videos and occasional podcasts covering recalls and safety and buying advice. And its RSS feeds and e-mail lists can help you keep up-to-date on the latest product-safety information.



### Dollars & Sense

The San Francisco Chronicle's Dollars & Sense blog ([macworld.com/6092](http://macworld.com/6092)) focuses on the San Francisco Bay Area, but you don't have to live there to get something out of it. The blog offers an informative and entertaining take on personal finance—including spending and saving. As the author puts it, the blog is about "finding new ways to inject dollars, cents, and sensibility into your everyday spending." (Disclaimer: The author of the blog is a former *Macworld* staffer who is married to a current *Macworld* staffer.)



## DEALMAC

Part of being an informed consumer is knowing where the deals are. When it comes to sales, specials, and coupons for Mac-related products, DealMac ([dealmac.com](http://dealmac.com)) has cornered the market. On a typical day, the site points out 70 to 100 current deals on Mac-related items: hardware, software, accessories—you name it. To make that fire hose of info easier to handle, subscribe to the site's RSS feed, use the site's search engine, or sign up to be alerted via e-mail whenever a particular product (or type of product) is mentioned. (The company that runs DealMac also runs similar sites for computer and camera memory, digital cameras, and fashion, as well as one that compiles coupons and online coupon codes.)

## Four Great Mac Sites that Aren't Macworld.com

**As you might guess, as the lab director at *Macworld*, I oversee the testing of a lot of Macs. When new Apple systems come out, we not only test them, but we also retest older models (running updated software), for the sake of comparison. How do we keep all those models, specs, speed claims, and tests straight? These four sites help.—JAMES GALBRAITH**

## BARE FEATS

At *Macworld*, we test Macs, hard drives, printers—all the mainstream tech gear. If you're interested in more exotic testing—if, for example, you want to know whether a RAID system using three of OWC's \$780 Solid State Drives runs faster than a RAID setup using four of them—*Bare Feats* ([www.barefeats.com](http://www.barefeats.com)) is a good place to look. The site tests all kinds of cool stuff, from OS X itself (10.6.3 versus 10.6.2, for example) to SSDs and other bits of outlier tech.



## iFixit

Apple designs some great-looking computers. Unfortunately, those insanely great designs can make you insane if you have to open them up to upgrade or to just find out what's inside. (For example, removing the hard drive from a 15-inch unibody MacBook Pro [mid-2009] means unscrewing 20 screws.) iFixit ([www.ifixit.com](http://www.ifixit.com)) provides repair guides—including detailed instructions, tool recommendations, and even handy parts lists—for a wide range of Macs, iPods, and iPhones.

## APPLE PRESS INFO

It really is true: When you need information, go straight to the source: If I need to know how many frames per second the iMac is supposed to generate in Call of Duty 4, or how long the battery on the new MacBook Pro is supposed to last, I go straight to Apple's own PR page ([www.apple.com/pr](http://www.apple.com/pr)). I can look at the original press releases for products dating back to January 2004, along with detailed info on the current product lines, high-resolution product images, and profiles of company executives.



## EveryMac.com

How many different 2GHz Core 2 Duo MacBook models has Apple offered over the years? What kind of RAM did the original Macintosh Portable use? When I need to find answers to questions like that, I head over to EveryMac.com ([everymac.com](http://everymac.com)). The site provides specifications, release dates, and other useful information for every Mac (and Mac-like product—Mac clones included) ever released, from the 1984 Macintosh Classic to the new iPad. You can search by year of release, case type, processor, or series. (And in case you haven't already looked it up, the answers to the questions above are six and 100-nano-second SRAM.)

## Four Sites that Prove Tech Can Be Funny

» Growing up around the greater Silicon Valley (before it was Silicon Valley), I encountered my fair share of electrical engineers—a brilliant bunch who, to a person, lacked any discernible sense of humor. Today's crop of propeller heads are a wittier (though occasionally cruder) crew.

—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

### xkcd

Proving that stick figures can be funny, xkcd ([xkcd.com](http://xkcd.com)) is—in the words of its creator, programmer Randall Munroe—"a webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language." Published every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Munroe's work is produced by and for geeks. If you're tickled by math and technology jokes, sci-fi references, and social awkwardness, you should bookmark xkcd.



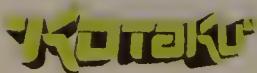
### WALT MOSSPUPPET

Walt Mossuppet ([mossuppet.com](http://mossuppet.com); on Twitter, [@mossuppet](https://twitter.com/mossuppet)) is a cantankerous puppet version of *Wall Street Journal* tech columnist Walt Mossberg. The puppet's caustic personality is nothing like the real thing's. But that doesn't make the videos, blog, or Twitter stream any less of a hoot.

## Six Best Sources for Gaming News

### KOTAKU

Another part of the Gawker ([gawker.com](http://gawker.com)) empire, Kotaku ([kotaku.com](http://kotaku.com)) has some of the best writers in gaming; up-to-the-minute gaming news is all they do.



### INSIDE MAC GAMES

If you've devoured Kotaku's (and Macworld.com's) gaming news, but still hunger for more, Inside Mac Games' ([www.insidemacgames.com](http://insidemacgames.com)) news section is the place to go.

### THE ESCAPIST

I find the site hard to navigate, but The Escapist ([www.escapistmagazine.com](http://www.escapistmagazine.com)) produces the best games-related videos on the Web. Lots of humor, lots of personality, and lots of great information.

### IGN

IGN ([www.ign.com](http://www.ign.com)) is huge, slick, and full of information. The main focus here is the major consoles. If you're a serious gamer, IGN secures lots of exclusives, and you can usually trust what it says.

### 1UP

Lately, 1UP ([www.1up.com](http://www.1up.com)) has been overshadowed by sites like IGN. But I'm still a fan—for its community, its news, and its podcasts.



### DIGG.COM/GAMING

I always find hidden gems on Digg ([digg.com/gaming](http://digg.com/gaming)). Of course, the site favors popularity over reliability. But if enough people believe something is right, it's right—right?

» I grew up on Nintendo, cut my teeth on Sega sports games, and bought every PlayStation system ever built. Now I'm *Macworld*'s de facto games editor. I spend a lot of time trying to stay on top of gaming news and trends. Here's where I go to do that.—CHRIS HOLT

### The Secret Diary of Steve Jobs

Dude, I invented the friggin iPhone. Have you heard of it?



## THE SECRET DIARY OF STEVE JOBS

A pseudonymous goof on Apple, its CEO, and its passionate fans and detractors, Dan Lyons's fake Secret Diary of Steve Jobs ([www.fakesteve.net](http://www.fakesteve.net); on Twitter, [@fsjblog](https://twitter.com/fsjblog)) can be funny, obscene, insightful, inspirational, and irritating—often all in the same post. Lyons started the blog while he was a technology writer for *Fortune*. But even with his identity exposed, Lyons rarely pulls his punches: Companies, corporate heads, publications, politicians, journalists, and celebrities all suffer the wrath of Lyons's faux CEO.

## Crazy Apple Rumors Site

John Moltz, creator of Crazy Apple Rumors ([www.crazyapplerumors.com](http://www.crazyapplerumors.com); on Twitter, [@carumors](https://twitter.com/carumors) and [@Moltz](https://twitter.com/Moltz)), does funny better than any technology writer I know. Why he hasn't been snapped up by the entertainment industry is beyond me. (Oh, wait, maybe it has something to do with all the sexbot jokes.) Crazy Apple Rumors went on hiatus in 2008, but it's now kinda-sorta back, on a "whenever I feel like it" basis.

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## Six New Ways to View Photography Online

» Sure, you've got your Flickr, your Picasa, your MobileMe galleries—there are all kinds of places to post your photographs online. But there's a lot more to online photography than sharing snapshots from your last vacation. Here are six of my favorite sites.—HEATHER KELLY

### MULTICOLR SEARCH LAB

The Multicolr Search Lab ([labs.ideeinc.com/multicolor](http://ideeinc.com/multicolor)) from Idée lets you look for photos by color. You select up to ten hues from a palette, and Multicolr then searches more than 10 million Creative Commons images on Flickr for shots that contain them. Multicolr is particularly useful for designers and photographers—not only for finding images with specific shades, but also for generating design ideas.



### Vi.visualize.us

FFFFFOUND ([fffffound.com](http://fffffound.com)) was one of the first image-based social bookmarking sites, but it's exclusive: Unless you get an invitation, you can only browse the images there. There is a less exclusive alternative: vi.visualize.us ([vi.visualize.us](http://vi.visualize.us)). Sign up for a free account and download the browser plug-in. Then, when an online image strikes you, Control-click (or right-click) and select Add Image To Vi.visualize.us from the contextual menu; you can add whatever tags you want. When you're not going through your own saved images, you can spend hours following visual tangents in other members' collections.

### The Big Picture

Instead of using images just to illustrate a news article, the Boston Globe's Big Picture blog ([www.boston.com/bigpicture](http://www.boston.com/bigpicture)) makes photographs the main attraction. Picked up mostly from the wire services, each photo is posted big (990 pixels wide), accompanied only by a brief caption. The subject matter covers everything from serious news (check out the monthly roundup of images from Afghanistan) to lighter, feature-oriented fare.

## New York Public Library Digital Gallery



There are millions of one-of-a-kind film prints out there in the nondigital world. Luckily, many of them are in the collections of public libraries and museums, and many of those institutions are scanning and publishing their collections online. One great example is the New York Public Library's Digital Gallery ([digitalgallery.nypl.org](http://digitalgallery.nypl.org)). You can search the 700,000 images—photographs, maps, rare books, posters, and other gems—by keyword or browse by category; you can also check out the library's Flickr feed ([www.flickr.com/photos/nypl](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nypl)). The scans are mostly 72-dpi images, but high-res prints are available for purchase. You don't even need a library card. (But you should have one anyway.)

### HUBBLE SITE

For 20 years, the Hubble Space Telescope has been gathering data about nebulae, galaxies, and other celestial bodies. One result is that the agency that operates the telescope has created Hubble Site ([hubblesite.org/gallery](http://hubblesite.org/gallery)), with a Gallery section that contains hundreds of stunning, high-res images from space. Each image is available as a free download in a variety of sizes. You'll also find explanations of how the images get their colors (since the original Hubble photos are black and white).



## TagGalaxy

TagGalaxy ([taggalaxy.com](http://taggalaxy.com)) is a totally different way to find photos: It's an interactive search tool for Flickr. Type a tag and you'll see it visualized as a planet, with satellites representing related tags floating around it. Select one of those tags to add it to your search. When you've collected all the tags you want, click on the middle planet and watch as a 3D sphere appears and is blanketed in relevant images from Flickr. Spin the sphere around and click on an image to bring up a detailed view and an option to go to that photo's Flickr page. It may not be revolutionary, or terribly efficient, but there's no denying it's fun.



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## Six Sites for Obsessive Fans

Want to dig *really* deep into your favorite sci-fi or fantasy world? In the old days, you'd be limited to the few (often unauthorized) books that publishers released. But now fans themselves are collaboratively assembling online encyclopedias about their favorite TV shows and movies. Here are six wikis documenting *Star Wars*, *Dr. Who*, *Star Trek*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *Marvel Comics*.—DAN MOREN

## Wookieepedia

Confession: I once won a game of *Star Wars Trivial Pursuit* in just two turns—and that was well before the advent of wikis. These days I'm a little rusty, but if I want to brush up on all things *Star Wars*, I turn to the brilliantly named Wookieepedia ([macworld.com/6093](http://macworld.com/6093)), which includes not only both series of films but also the *Clone Wars* TV show and the vast reaches of the “expanded universe.” If you've ever wanted to delve into the mechanics of lightsabers or wondered what exactly Bothan spies were, this site is your only hope.



## Lostpedia

The series may have reached its conclusion, but that hasn't stopped fans' feverish attempts to make sense of it all. How many different ways are Jack and Kate connected? What do we know about Richard Alpert's history? If those burning questions have kept you awake for the past six seasons, delve into the jungle that is Lostpedia ([macworld.com/6098](http://macworld.com/6098)). Every episode and every character is here. And there's no shortage of speculation. Got a theory about the smoke monster? You'll find an eager audience here.



## TARDIS INDEX FILE

TARDIS Index File ([macworld.com/6094](http://macworld.com/6094)) may look like a compact site, but don't worry—it's bigger on the inside. Following the adventures of all 11 incarnations of everybody's favorite Time Lord and his blue box, the wiki also features an extensive list of the Doctor's companions and his greatest foes. Be careful if you decide to contribute to the knowledgebase yourself; if you mess with any of the wibbly-wobbly timey-wimey stuff, any unorthodox changes will be EXTERMINATED.



## Buffyverse Wiki

Way before *Twilight* made vampires sparkle, Sunnydale was home to a legion of the fanged guys—not to mention its very own Hellmouth. The universe of Joss Whedon's legendary series (and its spinoff, *Angel*) is chronicled on Buffyverse Wiki ([macworld.com/6095](http://macworld.com/6095)) as meticulously as the work of any Watcher. In the end, there is no more fitting tribute to the show's eponymous heroine than to point out that she saved the world. A lot.

## MEMORY ALPHA

Among the most painstakingly constructed sites I've ever seen, Memory Alpha ([macworld.com/6099](http://macworld.com/6099)) is a comprehensive catalog of everything in the mainstream *Star Trek* canon, from the Prime Directive to the last episode of *Enterprise*. All five live-action series plus the animated series are covered, as are all the movies, including the recent reboot. If you want to venture beyond that trove to the novels and other media, though, you'll need to check out a second wiki called, naturally, Memory Beta ([macworld.com/6100](http://macworld.com/6100)).

## Marvel Database

It's a sucker's game to think you can ever truly comprehend the entire continuity of the world created by Marvel Comics (not without going all Dark Phoenix, anyway). But if you want to try, the twisty multiverse that houses the X-Men, X-Factor, X-Force, Excalibur, and the Canadian superhero team Alpha Flight has its own wiki: Marvel Database ([macworld.com/6096](http://macworld.com/6096)). There you'll find extensive histories of every character and alter ego, explanations of alternate universes, and an excellent Strength Scale (helpful for settling “Would X beat Y?” arguments). If Superman, Batman, et al. are more your style, there's also (big surprise) an online encyclopedia devoted to the DC Comics canon ([macworld.com/6097](http://macworld.com/6097)).



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# WORKING MAC

Tips, Tricks, and Tools to Make You and Your Mac More Productive

## iWork for iPad

Is Apple's productivity suite for the tablet really ready for business?

### REVIEW

If the iPad is going to be taken seriously as a business tool, it's going to need an office suite. Apple's iPad versions of its iWork apps—Pages, Numbers, and Keynote (\$10 each)—would seem to fit the bill. But how much work can you really do with them? Here are our reviews.

### Pages

Pages on the iPad is both a complete pleasure and an utter frustration to work with. It's a real word processor that makes it possible to use the iPad for day-to-day business use. At the same time, many basic tools are either limited or missing.

**Fonts and Formatting** As in the other iWork apps, you begin in Pages' My Documents browser. There, you can open existing documents or create a new one based on one of 16 templates. Those templates range from basic (a blank white page) to complex (including tables,



images, and charts). You can't add templates of your own.

You can choose from 40 font families, but doing so is a bit of a hassle: You have to tap the Info menu, scroll to the bottom of the Styles list, tap Text Options, and then select your font.

Pages does offer some nice tools for editing text. Select a word and you'll see the standard cut, copy, and paste options. Tap on More, though, and you can also copy a selection's style, replace a selected word, or view its definition. Documents have 200 levels of undo; the app autosaves changes as you work.

The app makes it easy to insert and manipulate

images, tables, charts, text boxes, and other objects. Images come from your iPad's Photo Albums, while tables, charts, and others are in Pages' built-in object library.

To navigate through multipage documents, you can tap and hold your finger on the right side of the screen. A small loupe appears, displaying a thumbnail of the current page. Drag your finger up or down with the loupe displayed, and you can navigate to any page in your document.

Pages puts the iPad's Multi-Touch screen to good use. To delete images, charts, or text, you perform two distinct taps on the thing you're deleting; that summons the Delete option.

**File Sharing** Unfortunately, Pages also has some gaping holes. The biggest is file management. Getting documents in and out of the app is not easy.

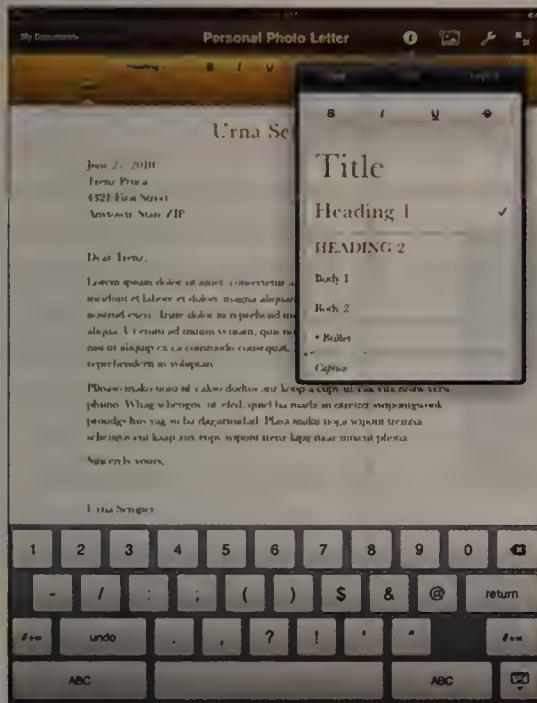
The first but least obvious way to get documents on or off your iPad is by using iTunes. With your iPad connected to your Mac and with iTunes open on your Mac, you select your iPad in the iTunes Devices list, open the Apps tab, and scroll to the bottom of the window. Select Pages from the Apps list, drag files to or from the window, and then sync. The other way to get files is through the iPad's Mail app; it recognizes any document that Pages can read and gives you the option to import and open it in Pages.

Unfortunately, if you receive a file with tracked changes or comments and then open it in Pages on the iPad, you'll lose all comments, and Pages will automatically accept all tracked changes. For me, that's a problem I can't work around.

Also, there is currently no way to print. You'll either need to export the



**Exporting Files** When you want to save a Pages document on your iPad for using later on your Mac, you can export it in one of three formats: Pages, PDF, or Word. To move the file to your other machine, you'll need to use the File Sharing feature in iTunes 9.1.



**Styling Text in Pages** Pages' toolbar appears when you're in portrait mode. Use the options here to format your text.

document to iTunes or e-mail it to a computer.

**Our Advice** Pages has great potential, but for now it's more proof-of-concept than shovel-ready. It could be a great word processing application, but it's not one yet. As a tool for doing any real work, Pages comes up short.—JEFFERY BATTERSBY  
♦♦♦; \$10; full review, [macworld.com/6129](http://macworld.com/6129)

## Numbers

If you expect to freely swap spreadsheets between your iPad and your Mac by using Numbers on both machines, you're going to be disappointed. The iPad's Numbers app is missing too many of the desktop version's features, including merged cells, pop-ups, steppers, sliders, and conditional formatting. But if you think of the iPad app as a mobile tool for creating new spreadsheets, it's not bad.

**Getting Started** Like the other iWork iPad apps, Numbers opens with a browser that displays all of the spreadsheets on your iPad. You can flip through these sheets with a finger flick; each screen contains a preview, the sheet's name, and the last time it was modified. If you tap on the New Spreadsheet button, you can choose from among 15 iPad-specific templates. They include a simple checklist, a loan-

comparison tool, an automobile log, and so on.

Once you're in the app itself, you'll find the interface easy to understand. Tabs along the top of the screen show each sheet in your spreadsheet. Above that is a minimalist toolbar from which you can return to the spreadsheet browser; undo (or redo) your last 200

export a worksheet to your Mac, edit it there, and reimport it to your iPad, any forms you created will be gone. Numbers suffers from the same file-management problems as the other iWork apps: The only way to move spreadsheets from the iPad to your Mac is via Mail or by exporting to Numbers or PDF and syncing with iTunes. You can't

## Pages has some gaping holes. The biggest is file management. Getting documents in and out of the app is not easy.

actions; format items; insert new media, tables, charts, or shapes; search; view help; and check spelling.

The interface has been totally rethought for working by way of touch. For instance, select a cell and then tap the vertical or horizontal bar above the table, and you select the entire column (or row). You can then resize or move the column, or select more cells, all by selecting, tapping, and dragging.

Like its desktop cousin (and the Pages iPad app), the iPad version of Numbers makes it easy to insert photos, tables, charts, and other objects into a worksheet. Multiple versions of each are available, and they're easy to customize. Add a shape, for example, and you can then change its fill color and opacity, border color, thickness, and shadow.

If you double-tap on a selected cell, the cell editor will appear. There, you can enter text, date and time values, figures, or one of more than 250 functions. Each of these input modes has its own customized keyboard.

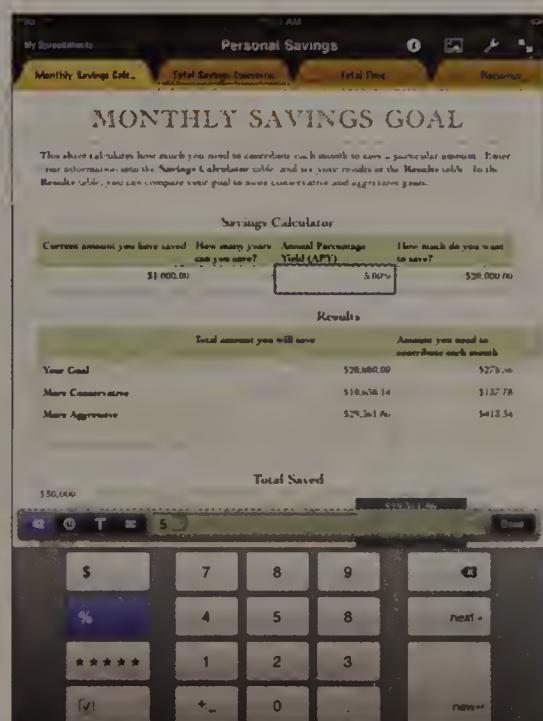
**Forms and Files** Numbers on the iPad has good support for forms, which makes adding data easy. For example, if you create a form from a six-row, seven-column table, the resulting form will contain six separate pages, which you can flip through. The title of each page will be taken from the first column in the selected table, and below that, the remaining six columns (in this example) will be shown as six single-line inputs.

Unfortunately, forms won't survive a roundtrip to and from your Mac: If you

export files in Excel format. So if you have a lot of coworkers who use Excel and you need to trade worksheets with them, Numbers won't work.

**Our Advice** Once you get used to the touch interface, you'll find that Numbers performs quite well. Apple has done a good job putting common functions just a tap or two away. But Numbers for the iPad is not a great tool for working on sheets that you made in Numbers for the Mac (or in Excel). The missing formatting options and the inability to save files in Excel format mean that it works best as a stand-alone tool.—ROB GRIFFITHS

♦♦♦½; \$10; full review, [macworld.com/6130](http://macworld.com/6130)



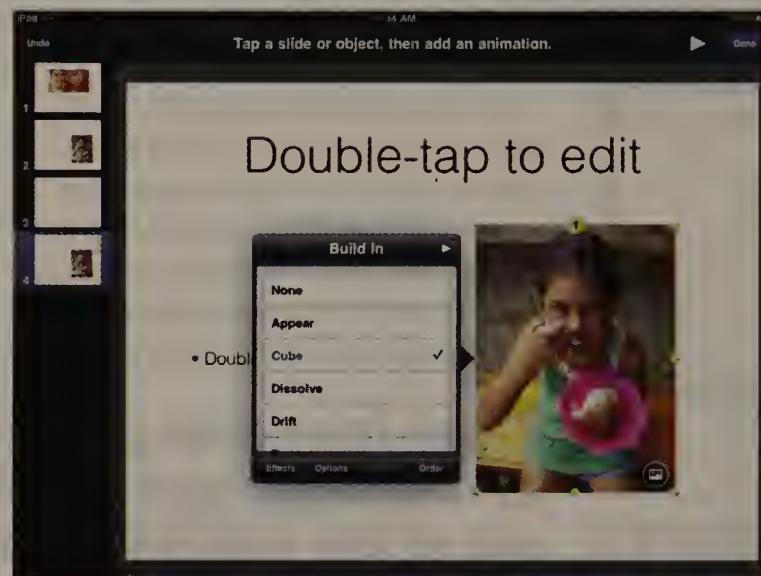
**Data Entry on the iPad** When you select a cell in Numbers, a specialized keyboard appears to facilitate the entry of numbers, dates, text, or formulas.

**Keynote**

I love designing and delivering presentations, but I don't like lugging my MacBook to meetings. So I was thrilled to hear that Keynote was coming to the iPad. Unfortunately, the iPad app is too limited to let me ditch my MacBook just yet.

**The Interface** Keynote's interface is similar to the Navigator View found in the desktop version: There's a column of thumbnails on the left and a slide display area on the right. But those two panes aren't adjustable, so you can't magnify the thumbnails; unless the slides contain easily recognizable graphics or very large text, it's hard to tell them apart. And since the navigator displays no more than nine slides at a time, the interface is only good for shuffling a few slides around.

Keynote makes excellent use of the iPad's Multi-Touch interface, but some miscues are annoying. For example, to set transitions you select a slide in the



**Selecting a Keynote Animation** Select an object and then tap the Animation button to customize build-in and build-out animations for your presentations.

Navigator and then tap the same toolbar icon that you use to animate objects. But you can only apply transitions to one slide at a time—not much help when you want to change all the transitions in a 100-slide presentation.

**Back and Forth** Keynote on the iPad supports only a subset of Keynote '09's effects and other controls; for some of the features they do share, the iPad support is only partial. For example, if you have a slide with bulleted text, the iPad version lets you use only one type of bullet; the gamut of colors, outlines, shadows, and other effects is considerably more limited in the iPad app. Other desktop

features, including smart builds, embedded audio, hyperlinks, grouped objects, looped movies, and some builds and slide transitions, are missing completely from the iPad version. And if you rely on Presenter Notes to guide you when you're presenting, you're out

## Your iPad/iPhone Idea to Ca\$h Flow in 4 Steps

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- 2 Zco designs and develops your app
- 3 Zco helps you *market* your app
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of luck, since they're absent on the iPad version of Keynote, too.

Because of those limitations, many people might want to build presentations on the Mac and then export them to the iPad. (The iPad app only imports Keynote 2009 and PowerPoint files.) But when you open a transferred document on the iPad, Keynote will show you a list of all the things that didn't make the transition. Of the five presentations I copied to my iPad and imported into Keynote, not one survived unscathed.

You'll run into problems even if you just want to edit a few text slides on the tablet. If there's no iPad equivalent for an effect, the iPad app will substitute another one in its place. When you transfer the document back to your Mac, those replacements will remain.

Delivering presentations from the iPad—using the optional VGA adapter and an external projector—was frustrating, too. I expected to see my slides on the iPad's screen, as I do when I use my

MacBook. But Keynote displays only small slide thumbnails along with a counter and arrows to advance or reverse the slides. Touching and holding brings up a handy laser pointer, but you have to look at the projection screen to aim it.

**Our Advice** In some ways, Keynote on the iPad reminds me of early versions of the Mac program, which were also imperfect. Even with its missing features, you can use Keynote to create nice presentations on your iPad. And at only \$10, it's a good value as a stand-alone tool. But as a complement to the desktop version, Keynote on the iPad is disappointing.—**FRANKLIN N. TESSLER**

■■■; \$10; full review, [macworld.com/6131](http://macworld.com/6131)

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**Jeffery Battersby** is an IT consultant who writes about Macs. **Rob Griffiths** is a former Macworld senior editor and currently master of ceremonies at Many Tricks ([manytricks.com](http://manytricks.com)). **Franklin N. Tessler** is a radiologist based in Birmingham, Alabama, who frequently writes about presentations.

## The Puzzle of iPad Printing



Apple hasn't made it easy to print a document or spreadsheet directly from within iWork on the iPad. In fact, the company's official advice is to send the file back to your Mac and print it from there ([macworld.com/6051](http://macworld.com/6051)). Fortunately, intrepid developers have stepped into the void. At press time, apps that could help you print iWork documents from your iPad included Dynamix Software's free **PrinterShare** ([macworld.com/6052](http://macworld.com/6052)), Ndili Technologies' \$6 **Fax Print & Share** for iPad ([macworld.com/6053](http://macworld.com/6053)), and EuroSmartz's \$6 **DocPrinter** ([macworld.com/6054](http://macworld.com/6054)), \$10 **PrintCentral** ([macworld.com/6055](http://macworld.com/6055)), and \$7 **Print n Share** ([macworld.com/6056](http://macworld.com/6056)).



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# Clean Up Your Mac

Tidy up your cables, clear out duplicate data, and get organized

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN

**S**pring tends to get the lion's share of attention as the season for cleaning, but for true procrastinators, that job is inevitably shifted to summer. If you're finally ready to tackle such tidying up, these tips can help you get started. (For more advice, see "Unclutter Your Hard Drive" [macworld.com/6057].)

## Tackle Cable Clutter

If you haven't taken a peek at the back of your iMac or Mac Pro lately, now's the time. Trace the many cables you find back there and see where they lead. You may discover USB cables connected to nothing whatsoever or to a spare photo printer that you haven't used all year. While you're in rummaging mode, check any power strips to see if they're connected to power supplies that aren't serving a useful purpose.

## Really Take Out the Trash

Just about every Mac user is aware that the items tossed into the Trash remain there until you choose Empty Trash from the Finder menu (or you click and hold on the Dock's Trash icon and select Empty Trash from the menu that appears). Fewer, however, know that some applications maintain Trash of

their own that, left unemptied, can also add unwanted bloat. Apple's iPhoto is the first place to look. When you delete pictures and movies, they go into iPhoto's Trash—located in iPhoto's sidebar—where they remain until you Control-click (or right-click) on iPhoto's Trash and choose Empty Trash.

Apple's Mail has Trash too, though by default Mail is configured to dispose of messages after a month. You can get rid of them sooner by opening Mail's preferences, clicking the Accounts tab, selecting an account, clicking the Mailbox Behaviors tab, and choosing a different option in the Trash area of the window. To delete all trashed messages immediately, Control-click (or right-click) on the Trash icon in Mail's sidebar and select Erase Deleted Items.



## Deal with Duplicate Data

If you've been using the same Mac for a while, it's likely that you have duplicate items cluttering up your computer. Fortunately some applications have built-in tools for dealing with those.

For example, open Apple's Address Book and choose Card ▶ Look For Duplicates. Address Book will do exactly that and eventually produce a sheet that details the number of duplicate cards and duplicate entries. Click Merge and the information from cards deemed duplicates will be merged into a single card.

## Industries Backpack

Is it wrong to want a business-suitable laptop backpack that's still comfortable and rugged enough for trekking around town? The folks at BBP ([www.bbpbags.com](http://www.bbpbags.com)) don't think so. The company's \$90 Industries Backpack offers a slim, urban-professional design with room for a 17-inch MacBook Pro; customizable adjusters let the pack fit smaller laptops. You also get plenty of pockets for organization, thick shoulder straps and back padding, dual water-bottle holders, a hidden passport/ticket pocket, a luggage handle pass-through, and a lifetime warranty. BBP also donates a portion of the profits to charity.—DAN FRAKES



## Clear the Decks

Many Mac users believe the Desktop is the perfect place to store files. After all, it puts the files you use most often front and center. The problem is that the Finder treats any folder or file on the Desktop as a window. That window designation is benign if you don't have many items on the Desktop, but clutter it with files and folders, and the Finder will slow significantly. If you've noticed that the Finder has become poky and you have a lot of items on the Desktop, there's your answer—too much clutter. It's time to pick up your junk.

# Are Third-Party Printer Inks Worth It?

We compare brand-name inks with a cheaper alternative

BY JAMES GALBRAITH

**W**ith money in short supply these days, everyone wants to find a way to trim costs. One expense that could be on the chopping block—and one that *Macworld* readers repeatedly gripe about—is the cost of ink.

Printer manufacturers strongly recommend that you use only inks they've created for your printer so that you get the best results and avoid damaging the hardware. The problem is that printer makers also charge an arm and a leg for these consumables. Sure, they practically give away the printers, but replacing the ink cartridges even one time, in the case of a six-color inkjet, can cost as much as buying a new printer.

Take the Epson Stylus NX400 (; [macworld.com/6058](http://macworld.com/6058)). If you search for the best current price for this inkjet printer, it's around \$44, but replacing the NX400's inks with genuine Epson inks will run you \$58.

If you're looking for deals on ink, you can find them online. Silo Ink ([www.siloink.com](http://www.siloink.com)) offers a complete set of refillable cartridges with a 320-page yield per color for just \$25. I set out to see



how these inks' print quality and page yield compared with Epson's.

## Price per Page

The cartridge yield estimates used by most printer manufacturers are based on the number of times a sheet with 5 percent coverage using all the inks can be printed from a single cartridge. Instead of trying to duplicate the manufacturer's test files, I used a more real-world mix of images.

With the Epson cartridges, I was able to print 120 text pages, 40 color PDF pages, and six 8.5-by-11-inch photos before the black cartridge ran out of ink. I replaced the black cartridge and was able to print 40 more color PDF sheets and six more photos before the magenta cartridge ran out.

The Silo inks produced better results, even though the color tanks were rated as having a lower yield than the Epson cartridges. I was able to print 160 text pages, 80 sheets of the color PDF and 9 letter-size pictures on photo paper before the black ran out. I refilled the black cartridge per Silo's instructions. It was easy and only a little messy. I was able to

print an additional 109 color sheets, 100 pages of the color PDF and nine photos.

Note that Epson's print utility doesn't accurately show the ink levels in the Silo cartridges and doesn't know when they've run out of ink. You can only tell by keeping an eye on the prints.

Printing only with the black cartridge, I calculated a cost of 2.5 cents per page for Silo and 11 cents per page for Epson. Full-color pages ran 12 cents per page for Silo and 53.5 cents per page for Epson.

## Quality Compared

How did the Epson print when we used the less-expensive after-market inks? The results were mixed. Text on plain paper was not as clean and crisp, but as more pages printed, the text quality improved. The quality of the color PDF prints also improved over time. Still, I'd have to describe the Silo ink's overall print quality as erratic. It's difficult to recommend these inks without caveats. That said, I'm quite sure that the photo print quality of the Silo inks would satisfy most people and the low price will sway even more to give these inks a try.

## Paper Savings

Looking to save even more money? We purchased a package of Staples Photo Plus Gloss paper and compared it to Epson's Premium Glossy Photo paper. Using Epson inks on both, three of our editors had trouble distinguishing any real differences between the papers, but when asked to make a choice, two of them chose the Staples paper, which at 45 cents a sheet in a packet of 50 sheets, costs 36 percent less than the Epson paper. We did not test the paper's longevity versus that claimed by the manufacturer.

# REVIEWS

What We're Reviewing  
Online This Month



## HARDWARE

### Brother HL-3070CW △

Brother's HL-3070CW color LED printer gives small offices color printing on the cheap, and has Wi-Fi, too. As is the case with many bargains, however, it makes some compromises in the process, namely in speed and print quality. On a Mac, the HL-3070CW averaged 9.8 pages per minute (ppm) with text and 3.6 ppm with graphics. All grayscale and color graphics suffered from a grainy effect, and color graphics looked pale. The single, 250-sheet input tray is not upgradable, and the manual-feed slot for thicker media is a hassle because you have to feed the sheets piece by piece. Offsetting the HL-3070CW's low purchase price are its higher toner costs. A page printed in black and white costs 3.4 cents per page; printing a page with all four colors would cost 18.4 cents ([macworld.com/6060](http://macworld.com/6060)).

**3.5**; \$290; Brother, [www.brother-usa.com](http://www.brother-usa.com)

### Dell 5130cdn

Dell's 5130cdn color laser printer aims high—and, on nearly all counts, succeeds. It has the speed and features that a high-volume office needs, and it's also on target with nearly perfect print quality. Using its PostScript driver on a Mac, the 5130cdn printed plain text at 22.5 ppm and graphics at an average of 3.1 ppm. Text quality was black and crisp. Overall color quality was very good, with natural colorings and only light graininess, which

was more pronounced in grayscale graphics. The printer's 256MB of DDR-2 standard memory is upgradable to 1.2GB. The standard paper handling includes a 550-sheet main tray and a 150-sheet multipurpose tray. Print costs run about 1.2 cents per black page and 10.9 cents for a four-color page. High-yield supplies offer greater savings. Though the purchase price of this printer is high, its consumables are affordable and the cost per page is impressively low ([macworld.com/6009](http://macworld.com/6009)).

**4.5**; \$1549; Dell, [www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com)



### HP Color Laserjet Enterprise CP4025dn △

HP's Color Laserjet Enterprise CP4025dn is a workgroup color laser printer with features to spare. Its toner costs are economical, too. The CP4025dn is blazing fast when connected to a Windows PC, but when paired with a Mac slows down to an average of 7.7 ppm for printing text and 2.3 ppm for printing graphics. Print quality was smooth and natural looking, with a few overly dark areas. Printing black costs only 1.9 cents per page; printing with all four colors costs a low 9.7 cents per page. These are very economical costs, especially considering the integrated drum-and-toner design used in this model. If the standard 500-sheet input tray and the 100-sheet side multipurpose tray aren't enough, for \$499 you can add a wheeled base unit

that includes another 500-sheet input tray, plus a cabinet for storing paper. Most busy offices would be happy with the HP Color Laserjet Enterprise CP4025dn's speed and features, and its smooth print quality is a nice bonus ([macworld.com/6061](http://macworld.com/6061)).

**4.5**; \$1299; Hewlett-Packard, [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)



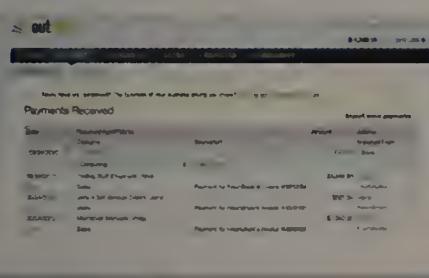
### Lexmark Platinum Pro905 △

Lexmark's Platinum Pro905 color inkjet multifunction printer is a well-equipped small-office multifunction printer with a twist: Users can access and view Web-based applications on its large touchscreen LCD. The Web capability is just one aspect of what Lexmark calls SmartSolutions, namely the ability to program a button on the device's 4.3-inch display for walk-up, one-touch execution of a sequence of actions (such as saving scanned PDFs to a specific location on a server). In printing tests, the Platinum Pro905 performed adequately. Most of the output looked good whether printed on plain or special paper, with the exception of flesh tones. Ink for the Platinum Pro905 is an excellent deal. On average, printing

## Find It Online

For expanded reviews, type the blue URL at the end of each summary into your browser's address bar.

costs 1 cent per text page and 10 cents per four-color page. We encountered some wireless scanning kinks—namely, the device often couldn't connect wirelessly with the Mac. Lexmark's Platinum Pro905 does, however, offer plentiful paper handling. It comes with a 50-page automatic document feeder and an automatic duplexer ([macworld.com/6062](http://macworld.com/6062)).  \$300; Lexmark, [www.lexmark.com](http://www.lexmark.com)



## SOFTWARE

### Outright △

Outright is a free, Web-based accounting application that is designed to work well with other Web-based expense and invoicing applications, as well as with standard credit card services such as American Express. Outright's premise is simple: Small-business owners waste too much precious time tracking business income and expenses, which often makes them less able to focus on their clients' needs and on income-producing projects. As with the personal finance site Mint.com, Outright attempts to aggregate your existing business financial information so you can easily see your overall financial standing. But Outright goes one step further by helping you file contractor 1099s and by automatically populating your Schedule C data in a printable IRS form. Outright does a fantastic job of aggregating the income information that you may already be collecting through Web-based applications such as FreshBooks.com, Xpenser.com, or Shoeboxed.com. However, the application lacks the capability to automatically import basic banking information. This inefficiency makes Outright something less than the complete accounting package it needs to be ([macworld.com/6063](http://macworld.com/6063)).  free; Outright, [www.outright.com](http://www.outright.com)

## Top Products YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED

### HARD DRIVES Desktop

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE*	TYPE	FIND CODE*
iStoragePro iT1 Dock (pictured) <a href="http://www.istoragepro.com">www.istoragepro.com</a>		\$329 (2TB)	quad interface	5843
Rocpro 850 <a href="http://www.rocstor.com">www.rocstor.com</a>		\$135 (500GB)	quad interface	5397
VR Mini <a href="http://www.caldigit.com">www.caldigit.com</a>		\$499 (1TB)	quad interface	5396

### HARD DRIVES Portable

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE*	TYPE	FIND CODE*
iStoragePro Pocket iT1PKT72320 <a href="http://www.cidesign.com">www.cidesign.com</a>		\$199 (320GB)	dual interface	5808
Mercury On-the-Go (pictured) <a href="http://www.macsales.com">www.macsales.com</a>		\$138 (320GB, 7200 rpm)	triple interface	4258
Starck Mobile Hard Drive <a href="http://www.lacie.com">www.lacie.com</a>		\$80 (320GB)	USB-only	5608

### MONITORS Wide

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE*	TYPE	FIND CODE*
324 LCD (pictured) <a href="http://www.lacie.com">www.lacie.com</a>		\$799	24-inch display	3896
LP3065 <a href="http://www.hp.com">www.hp.com</a>		\$1100	30-inch display	2509
SyncMaster 2233SW <a href="http://www.samsung.com">www.samsung.com</a>		\$129	21.5-inch display	5900

### PRINTERS Laser

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE*	TYPE	FIND CODE*
C544DN <a href="http://www.lexmark.com">www.lexmark.com</a>		\$449	LED, color	4356
Dell 5130cdn (pictured) <a href="http://www.dell.com">www.dell.com</a>		\$1549	LED, color	6009
HL-4070CDW <a href="http://www.brother-usa.com">www.brother-usa.com</a>		\$450	PostScript-compatible	3385

### PRINTERS Multifunction

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE*	TYPE	FIND CODE*
Artisan 810 (pictured) <a href="http://www.epson.com">www.epson.com</a>		\$300	inkjet	5916
Color LaserJet CM1312nfi <a href="http://www.hp.com">www.hp.com</a>		\$304	laser	5183
LaserJet M1319f <a href="http://www.hp.com">www.hp.com</a>		\$215	laser, monochrome	5480

\* All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. In a browser's address field, typing a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) takes you to a product's review or overview.

# BUSINESS CENTER

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## New Hard Drive Supports Encryption

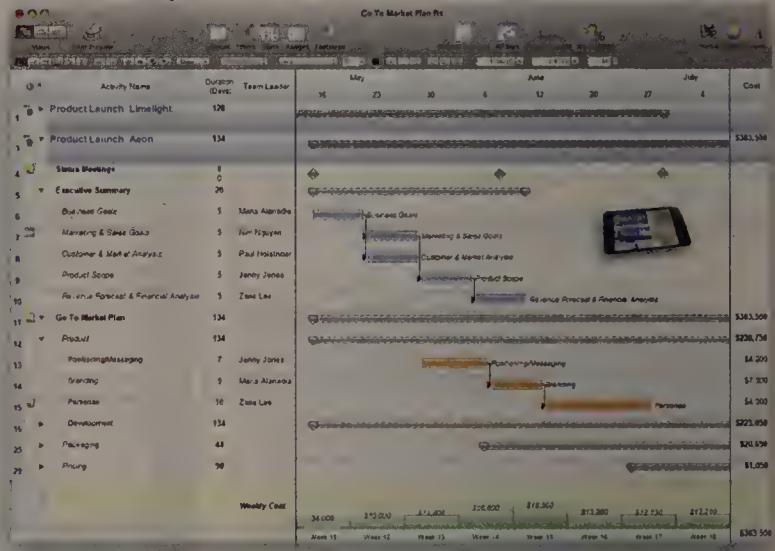
A new portable storage device from Apricorn ([www.apricorn.com](http://www.apricorn.com)), the Aegis Padlock Pro, includes multiple security features to keep your data secure. The drive supports hardware-based 256-bit AES encryption. All data saved to the drive is encrypted, even if the hard-drive mechanism is removed from the Aegis Padlock Pro case. The Aegis Padlock Pro also offers access via a personal identification number (PIN); you must enter a PIN before you can use the drive.

The Aegis Padlock Pro comes with a USB 2.0 port and an eSATA port. The drive can use bus power via USB if the USB port on your Mac provides enough power. If you want to use eSATA, Apricorn includes a USB power cable, so you can draw power from the USB port while benefiting from the data-transfer speeds of eSATA. The drive also comes with a power adapter.

The Aegis Padlock Pro is available with a hard-disk mechanism or a solid-state drive (SSD). The hard-drive version is available in 250GB (\$129), 500GB (\$169), and 640GB (\$199) capacities. The SSD version is available in 128GB (\$419) and 256GB (\$799) capacities.—ROMAN LOYOLA

## FastTrack Schedule 10 Boosts Project-Management Tools

AEC Software has unveiled FastTrack Schedule 10 (\$349; [www.aecsoftware.com](http://www.aecsoftware.com)), a major overhaul that makes the project-management software look more Mac-like than ever and adds many features. Highlights include effort-driven scheduling, which lets a project manager adjust how long a task lasts by adding or subtracting resources while keeping the total amount of work constant. A Work Usage Inspector helps manage employee workloads. And a redesigned resource information form lets managers organize schedules, rates, contact info, and employee photo IDs.—PHILIP MICHAELS



## Google Docs Adds Simultaneous Editing

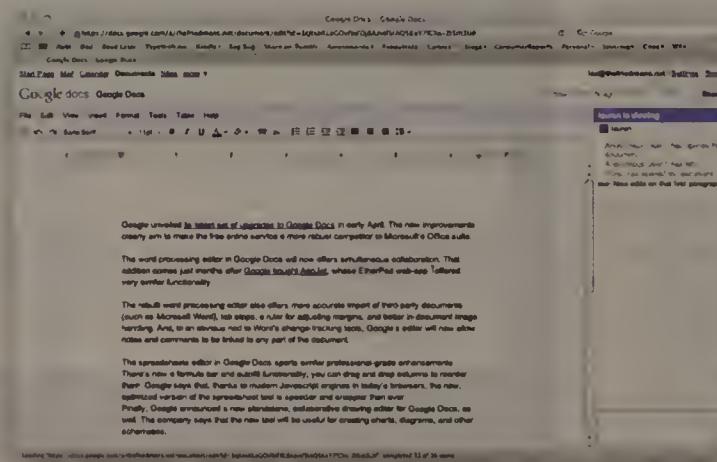
Google unveiled its latest set of upgrades to Google Docs. The improvements aim to make the free online service a more robust competitor to Microsoft Office applications.

The word processing editor in Google Docs now offers simultaneous collaboration. The addition comes just months after Google bought AppJet, whose EtherPad product offered very similar functionality.

The rebuilt word processor also offers more-accurate import of third-party documents (such as Microsoft Word files), tab stops, a ruler for adjusting margins, and better in-document image handling. And in an obvious nod to Word's change-tracking tools, Google's editor now allows notes and comments to be linked to any part of the document.

The spreadsheet editor in Google Docs sports similar professional-grade enhancements: There's now a formula bar and autofill functionality. And you can drag and drop columns to reorder them. Google says that, thanks to modern JavaScript engines in today's browsers, the new spreadsheet editor is faster and more responsive than ever.

Google announced a stand-alone, collaborative drawing editor for Google Docs. The company says the new tool will be useful for creating charts, diagrams, and other schematics.—LEX FRIEDMAN





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3. Unlike "slipcase" configurations, there is no rear blockage of your cell phone antenna.
4. Licensed and certified by Apple for iPhone 2G/3G/3GS/iPod.
5. Built-in flashlight is surprisingly useful and bright; laser pointer included.
6. Lightweight — you can easily carry it in your pocket, and top up your iPhone and iPod as needed.
7. Choose from two models: direct plug-in or cable. Both are 1800 mAh lithium-ion rechargeable!
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# PLAYLIST

Everything You Need to Know about iPods, iTunes, and Mac-based Entertainment

## iPad: A Playlist Lover's Best Friend

Create and edit playlists with the iPad while on the go

BY KIRK MCELHEARN

With a new device comes new possibilities. And while the iPad is much more than just a portable music player, you'll probably listen to music on it from time to time.

One feature that's a lot better on the iPad than it is on the iPhone and iPod touch is the ability to create and edit playlists. Your only choice on these smaller devices is to use the on-the-go playlist feature. But the iPad has some extra-large playlist-creation features up its sleeve. (Apple announced that the iPhone OS 4 update, due out this summer, will add playlist-creation support as well, so these features may not be limited to the iPad for long.)

### Find Music, Create Playlists

To access your music on the iPad, you tap the iPod app. This displays an interface that is closer to that of iTunes than that of a pocket-size touchscreen device. The left column shows your library: music, podcasts, audiobooks, and any playlists you have synced. Tap an entry to see its contents to the right.

To create a new playlist, tap the plus (+) button below the sidebar. This brings up a box—similar to the one you get when prompted to enter a Wi-Fi password—asking you to name the playlist, as well as an on-screen keyboard to type the name. Enter a name and then tap Save.

The playlist displays briefly in the sidebar, and then a list of all your songs pops up. Each song has a blue plus (+) icon to the right; to add a song to the playlist, just tap the icon next to its name. This song list shows only limited information, though: the song name and artist. So if you have more than one



**Musical Possibilities** A pop-up window lets you choose songs to add to your playlist.

version of a song, you won't know which album the song comes from. Under the volume slider in the upper left corner there's a Sources button—use it to pick from music, podcasts, audiobooks, or other playlists to build a new playlist.

You can view your music in other ways, too, to add songs to a playlist (the Sources button serves the same function with them all). At the bottom of the song list are buttons labeled Songs, Artists, Albums, Genres, and Composers. Tap one of these to see your music sorted in different ways. If you tap Artists, you'll see each artist's name with a single

album cover in front of it (assuming all your music has album art). Tap an artist name and you'll see all the songs you have by that artist, sorted by album and then song on the right, with album art on the left.

Tapping Albums displays all your albums as cover art graphics, similar to what you see in iTunes' Grid view. Tap an album image to get a pop-up of its contents; tap a song to add it to the playlist.

Tap Genres and you'll get a Grid view display of your genres. Tap one and you'll see a pretty useless pop-up menu of all the songs or tracks in that genre, without

any artist or album information to help you figure out what's what. Lastly, if you tap Composers, you'll get a display similar to that of Artists: one line for each composer, with a name and album cover.

Whichever method you use to find your music, just add all the songs you want and then tap the blue Done button, at the top right of the window.

### Work with Your Playlists

A big difference with the iPad's playlist feature compared with that of the iPhone and iPod touch is in what you can do after you've made a playlist. Choose a playlist by tapping it in the sidebar. Then, if you don't like the way you've set it up, you can make changes. Tap the Edit button. To change the order of the songs, tap and hold the three-line icon at the right of a song, and drag it where you want. If you want to delete a song, just tap the red minus (-) icon and then the Delete button that appears. And if you want to add songs, tap the Add Songs button next to Done and throw another few songs or albums in the mix. When you've finished, tap Done.

Want to make a new playlist? Tap the plus icon again and start the process over—you can create as many playlists as you want. Tired of your playlist? Tap Edit, tap the red icon to the left of the playlist's name, and then tap Delete.

You may even find that making playlists on an iPad is easier or more convenient than doing so on your Mac. Since any playlists you create on the iPad are copied to your Mac when you sync them, you can use this method to set up playlists to enjoy on your computer as well.

There are a few shortcomings with playlist creation on the iPad, however. You can't easily create playlists of TV shows, movies, or music videos, which are confined to the Videos app (unless, that is, you've created a playlist containing videos on your computer to sync with the iPad—and even then, the iPad treats them as songs). You also can't create smart playlists. At least not yet.

Senior Contributor **Kirk McElhearn** writes about more than just Macs on his blog, Kirkville ([www.mcelhearn.com](http://www.mcelhearn.com)).

## Are Your Earbuds Duds? Apple's Replacement Program Can Help

BY SERENITY CALDWELL

Having problems with your Apple headphones? You might not be alone. And you're certainly not forgotten.

The company has announced a replacement program ([macworld.com/6079](http://macworld.com/6079)) for the newest revision of its iconic white earbuds, which "may fail under certain conditions," according to the Apple Support Website. The replacement specifically targets the Apple Headphones with Remote that are included with the third-generation iPod shuffle (shipped between February 2009 and February 2010), but Apple also notes that the Apple Headphones with Remote and Mic and the Apple In-Ear Headphones are available for replacement too.

If you notice any of the following issues with your headphones within two years from the date of purchase—the controls are nonresponsive or work only intermittently, there are unexpected volume increases or decreases, or there is unexpected voice feedback—Apple will replace them at no cost to you.

You can exchange them at an Apple Store (Genius Bar appointment recommended), or through the mail. Follow the steps listed on Apple's Replacement Program Website—you'll need the serial number of your iPod or iPhone, a shipping and billing address, and your credit card information (in the event that you don't return the malfunctioning headphones)—and the company will send a replacement and a prepaid return envelope to your door.

The iPod shuffle serial numbers valid for the Apple Headphones with

Remote fall in the following two ranges:

- > xx909xxxxxx to xx952xxxxxx
- > xx001xxxxxx to xx004xxxxxx

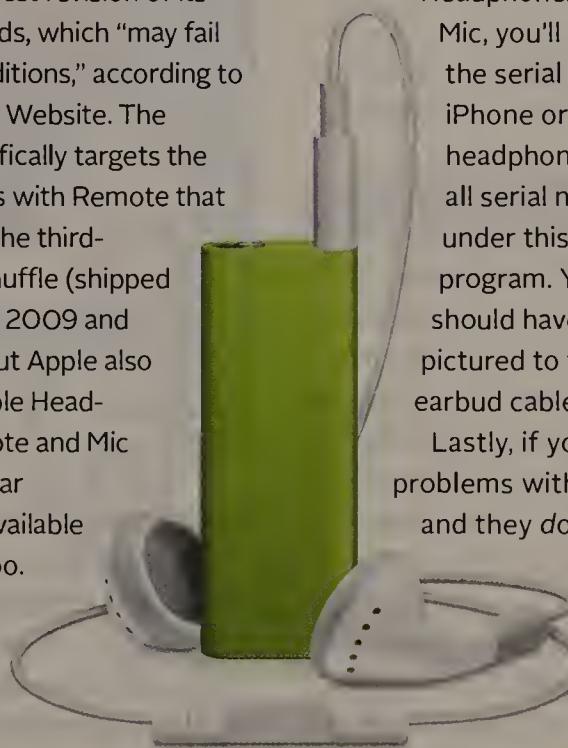
If you have the Apple In-Ear Remote and Mic Headphones or the Apple

Headphones with Remote and Mic, you'll still need to provide the serial number of your iPhone or iPod, or of the headphones themselves, but all serial numbers are covered under this replacement program. Your headphones should have the remote (as pictured to the left) on the right earbud cable to be valid.

Lastly, if you're having problems with your headphones and they don't qualify for this program, know that as long as your iPod or iPhone is within warranty, you can book a Genius Bar

appointment and exchange them for free. All you need are the offending headphones and the serial number of your iPod or iPhone.

If you decide it's time to look for some alternatives to Apple's sound-delivering devices—and let's face it, there are some really good options out there if you want better sound quality and features—check out our new reviews of B&W's P5 Mobile Hi-Fi Headphones and Sennheiser's PX 210 BT Headphones on page 61, as well as *Macworld's* complete headphone reviews online ([macworld.com/6087](http://macworld.com/6087)). And be sure to read our headphone buying guide ([macworld.com/6086](http://macworld.com/6086)) to help you figure out if earbuds, in-ear-canal headphones, canalbuds, lightweight headphones, full-size headphones, noise-canceling headphones, or iPhone headsets are the best fit for your ears, your budget, and your lifestyle.



# Read Before You Rip

Our take on the DVD-ripping controversy

BY MACWORLD STAFF

**W**henever we write about applications such as HandBrake or RipIt, we get questions asking whether ripping your DVDs to enjoy in a different format is OK to do. Here are answers to some of the questions we've received.

## Is DVD ripping illegal?

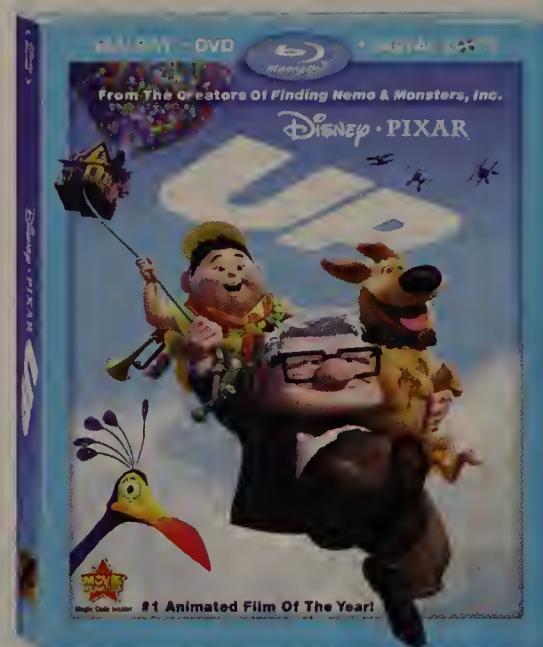
The MPAA and most media companies argue that you can't legally copy or convert commercial DVDs for any reason. We (and others) think that, if you own a DVD, you should be able to override its copy protection to make a backup copy or to convert its content for viewing on other devices. Currently, the law isn't entirely clear one way or the other. So our advice is: If you don't own it, don't do it. If you do own it, think before you rip.

## Why would anybody need to copy or rip a DVD anyway?

Kids and jam, for one. Unless you enjoy purchasing multiple copies of *Finding Nemo*, you'll understand why parents seek ways to back up their DVDs. Similarly, if you travel with your laptop, putting copies of DVDs on your laptop's hard drive will make your battery last much longer. Plus you won't have to worry about the DVD getting damaged. Or if you own an entire season of a TV show on DVD and don't enjoy hunting around for the right DVD, waiting for it to load up, selecting an episode, and so on, you might want to put all of those episodes on an Apple TV or iPad so you can access and watch them easily.

## Why not just purchase everything again from the iTunes Store?

Although that would make Apple and the media companies happy, it's also expensive to buy another copy of every movie you have just so you can watch them on your iPad when you travel.



**Digital Copy** This DVD comes with an iTunes-friendly Digital Copy.

## Are you saying that if you buy something once, in one format, you should get it free forever?

Not at all. We're sympathetic to the idea that the studios need to make money—we make our money by selling content, too—and we definitely oppose piracy. We're simply suggesting that it's just as legitimate to rip the movies you own as it is to rip your audio CDs.

## What about the digital copies that come with some DVDs now?

Clearly Hollywood is trying to combat piracy, and including an iTunes-friendly copy of a movie that comes on a DVD is a great step to make DVD ripping unnecessary. But at the same time, it's a tacit admission that people want to view the content they purchase in different places and in different ways.

## Is Macworld going to continue writing about DVD-ripping software?

Yes. We feel that we're providing useful information about what's available and how to use it. But ultimately, it's your decision to rip or not.

# 3D TV: Not for the Drunk, Tired

BY JR RAFAEL

2010 promises to be the year of 3D TV, and there's no shortage of eye-popping displays on the way. Before you jump out of your chair in full three-dimensional excitement, though, there's something about 3D TVs you should know.

Behind all the buzz about the 3D TV technology stands a stern warning: If you're a teenager, a pregnant woman, a senior citizen, or someone who's drunk, you shouldn't necessarily be watching it. The same applies if you're just really, really tired.

Sound crazy? It's the real deal—in fact, the alert comes straight from Samsung, maker of a whole gaggle of upcoming 3D TVs.

Tucked away on the company's Australian Website is a page warning that children and teenagers may be more susceptible to health issues associated with viewing in 3D and that pregnant women, the elderly, sufferers of serious medical conditions, and people who are sleep deprived or under the influence of alcohol should avoid using the unit's 3D functionality.

Oh, and even if you're not drunk, watching a 3D TV can make you feel like you are. Another warning states that viewing may cause disorientation, so don't "place your television near open stairwells, cables, balconies or other objects that may cause you to injure yourself."



# REVIEWS

Home Entertainment Hardware,  
Software, and Accessories

## HARDWARE

### Aluratek Libre eBook Reader Pro ▶

The no-frills, lightweight Aluratek Libre eBook Reader Pro is a refreshing surprise. Dismissing the Libre Pro as just another e-reader in a sea of clones would be easy, but this device handles better than most—and sports a bargain price, too. Although the Libre Pro lacks the Wi-Fi or 3G connectivity of some fancier e-readers, it keeps things basic and to the point. This little e-reader is a pleasure to use, and offers a reasonable alternative to more costly, connected e-readers ([macworld.com/6065](http://macworld.com/6065)).

3½; \$179; Aluratek, [www.aluratek.com](http://www.aluratek.com)



### B&W MM-1 Speakers ▶

At \$500, the MM-1 speaker set is pricey, but you're paying for far more than just a well-respected audio brand and a pleasing design. These nicely balanced, detailed speakers sound great in the environment for which they were designed—atop a desk next to your laptop or computer monitor with your head within sneezing distance. And the MM-1's DAC and improved headphone output make for a better headphone experience compared with plugging headphones directly into your Mac ([macworld.com/6067](http://macworld.com/6067)).

3½; \$500; Bowers & Wilkins, [www.bowers-wilkins.com](http://www.bowers-wilkins.com)



### B&W P5 Mobile Hi-Fi Headphones ▶

B&W's P5 offers full-size sound quality and outstanding passive noise isolation in a truly portable headphone. While much



of the \$300 price surely goes toward the P5's design, the result is much more than an attractive appearance: The P5's construction, comfort, swappable components, and compact size add utility and long-term value. And while there may be \$300 headphones that can best the P5's impressive audio performance, they tend to be bulky, require better amplification than an iPhone or iPod can provide, or don't stand up to the rigors of regular mobile use ([macworld.com/6066](http://macworld.com/6066)).

3½; \$300; Bowers & Wilkins, [www.bowers-wilkins.com](http://www.bowers-wilkins.com)

### Sennheiser PX 210 BT Headphones ▶

The PX 210 BT headphones have a compact design, with comfortable padded earpieces that fold flat when they're not in use, and a carrying case for when you're travelling. The built-in rechargeable battery lasts about 10 hours when used with Bluetooth, and an ordinary audio cable is included as well so that you



can still use the headphones if the battery runs out. Should you be using an older iPhone or iPod, you'll need to factor in the cost of Sennheiser's \$130 BTD 300i audio transmitter as well. It also adds support for the Audio/Video Remote Control Profile (AVRCP) for track navigation, a technology absent from all iPods and iPhones ([macworld.com/6068](http://macworld.com/6068)).

3½; \$300; Sennheiser, [www.sennheiserusa.com](http://www.sennheiserusa.com)

### TiVo Premiere DVRs ▶

TiVo Premiere is the first true overhaul of the TiVo experience since the company changed our TV-watching world more than a decade ago. Despite the cost of entry, the TiVo Premiere is great for anyone fed up with the sorry functionality of their cable DVR, especially those who make use of Web services like Netflix or Amazon Video on Demand. It's a small price to pay for a vastly better TV-watching experience ([macworld.com/6069](http://macworld.com/6069)).

3½; Premiere, \$300; Premiere XL, \$500; TiVo; [www.tivo.com](http://www.tivo.com)

## iPods: Current Lineup

PRODUCT	SPECS	RATING	PRICE*	DISPLAY	PERFORMANCE	FIND CODE
iPod Classic	160GB	3½	\$249	2.5-inch color	36 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	5262
iPod Touch	8GB	3½	\$199	3.5-inch color	30 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	3864
	32GB	3½	\$299	3.5-inch color	30 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	5257
iPod Nano	64GB	3½	\$399	3.5-inch color	30 hours of music playback; 6 hours of video playback	5258
	8GB	3½	\$149	2.2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	5363
iPod Shuffle	16GB	3½	\$179	2.2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	5364
	2GB	3½	\$59	none	10 hours of music playback	5267
	4GB	3½	\$79	none	10 hours of music playback	5268

\* All prices are Apple's prices. \*\* In a browser's address field, typing a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) takes you to a product's review or overview.



# HOT STUFF

What We're Raving about This Month



## iTunes Festival 2010

Apple is gearing up to rock London again with July's iTunes Festival 2010, the fourth annual month-long event where artists play in the name of music and the iTunes Store. Like iTunes Festival 2007, 2008, and 2009, Apple has lined up more than 60 bands, one or two of which will play intimate shows each night at Camden's Roundhouse in London. The performances will be recorded and sold in iTunes Stores all over the world once all is sung and done. The first acts announced were Scissor Sisters, Tony Bennett, and Ozzy Osbourne. Bennett says, "I'm thrilled that after playing two nights at London's famous Royal Albert Hall, I'll be making my first appearance at the iTunes Festival at Camden's Roundhouse." Shows are free, but the only way to grab a ticket is to win it in one of many contests being offered. Contests will be launched from the iTunes Festival Tickets page, so you have to apply to participate in each one ([www.itunesfestival.co.uk](http://www.itunesfestival.co.uk)).—DAVID CHARTIER

## Harman Kardon Go + Play Micro

Harman Kardon's Go + Play was one of our favorite iPod speaker systems back in 2007, but it didn't work with the iPhone and it was too big to be easily portable. The new \$299 Go + Play Micro aims to provide similar sound quality in a smaller package that fully supports the iPhone and iPod touch. The Micro features five drivers, an angled cradle for easier touchscreen access, video output, and a USB port for syncing with your computer. You also get up to 18 hours of playback from eight C batteries ([www.harmankardon.com](http://www.harmankardon.com)).—DAN FRAKES



## iTunes 9.1's Convert-on-the-Fly Option

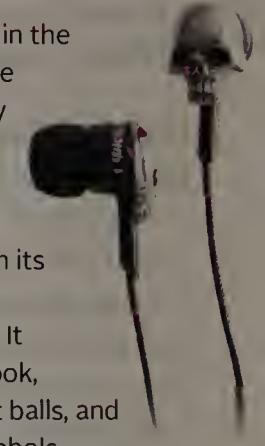
Although the primary purpose of the iTunes 9.1 update was to bring iPad compatibility to Apple's jukebox-and-more media application, other changes came along for the ride. Perhaps the coolest is the Convert Higher Bit Rate Songs To 128 kbps AAC option that was previously restricted to users of the storage-starved iPod shuffle. The feature now works with all iPods,

iPhones, and even iPads. This means that people can populate their iTunes libraries with high-bit-rate, or lossless, music files and not take up oodles of space on their portable devices ([www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com)).—CHRISTOPHER BREEN



## Empire Brands New Earbud Lines

Empire Brands specializes in the manufacture of fashionable headphones. The company describes its four new lines of earbuds as—what else?—sinfully stylish. The Wicked Empire series, with its \$35 price tag, is the most expensive of the four sets. It features a punk-inspired look, complete with skulls, eight balls, and other rebellious-youth symbols. Rounding out the new offerings are the ultralight Wicked Little Buds (\$30); the \$18 Jaw Breakers series, which features four earbud color options in bright hues with a "candy" theme; and the \$13 Metallics series. All feature gold-tipped jacks and promise noise isolation ([www.empirebrandsinc.com](http://www.empirebrandsinc.com)).—MARCO TABINI



## INCASE COMBO CHARGER FOR iPOD, iPHONE, AND iPAD

If you need an extra charger, or one that also works in your car, Incase's \$40 Combo Charger is the first we've seen that puts out enough juice for the iPad. The 2-amp Combo Charger is a bit chunky, but it works with both a car's accessory jack (aka, "cigarette lighter") and, thanks to flip-out prongs, standard AC wall outlets. An LED indicates power, and the included USB dock-connector cable means that you can leave Apple's cable connected to your computer ([www.goincase.com](http://www.goincase.com)).—DAN FRAKES



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# DIGITAL PHOTO

Techniques and Gear for Shooting, Editing, and Managing Great Photos

## Photoshop CS5 and CS5 Extended

64-bit compatibility, plus nifty new features, make for a no-brainer upgrade

BY LESA SNIDER

### REVIEW

Photoshop CS5 and CS5 Extended bring 64-bit compatibility to Adobe's Mac image editor, along with a slew of new and improved features. Put them all together, and you've got an upgrade that's not only worth the cost, but also one you can't afford to skip.

#### 64-Bit Support

Making Photoshop 64-bit-compatible meant rewriting it from the ground up. The result, for end users, is that Photoshop can now open and edit huge files (bigger than 4GB) and utilize more memory, making the program feel zippier. The speed increase is most noticeable if you're using Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard).

Unfortunately, some plug-ins and filters—such as the built-in Variations and Lighting Effects, and most third-party plug-ins—will operate only in 32-bit mode.

#### Image Editing

Other than the 64-bit upgrade, one of the new version's most useful new features is Content-Aware Fill, which makes zapping unwanted content from photos quick and easy. Accessible from the Spot Healing Brush or via Edit ▶ Fill, it compares your selection or brush stroke to nearby pixels and then fills the selected area so it blends seamlessly with the background.

The Refine Edge dialog box has also been much improved. It makes selecting difficult stuff like hair and fur easy. For example, the new Smart Radius option detects the difference between soft and hard edges; the new Decontaminate Colors option all but eliminates any leftover pixels from the original background.



**Refine Edge** After making a rough selection with the Quick Selection tool, you can use the improved Refine Edge dialog box (left) to fine-tune your selection. You can also give it extra help by painting over super soft areas (like the horse's mane) with the Refine Radius tool (top right), to create a beautiful composite (bottom right).

If you ever need to move a subject's arms, legs, or tail into a better position, the new Puppet Warp tool can do it. You begin by dropping markers (called pins) onto the item you want to move, and Photoshop then generates anchor points, handles, and a gridlike mesh that you use to move and distort the item. It works with pixel-based layers and Smart Objects.

#### HDR and Camera Raw

The programming code for Photoshop CS5's HDR (high dynamic range) feature—which takes multiple exposures and merges them into a single image—has also been revamped in CS5. It now merges your images faster and includes a deghosting option—helpful if something in your image shifted between shots. You can also use the new HDR Toning option to apply HDR settings to normal images.

Version 6.0 of the Camera Raw plug-in has better noise reduction, more options for adding postcrop vignettes (such as soft,

darkened edges), and improved sharpening that pays attention to an image's tone, contrast, and fine details.

The Lens Correction filter has been updated and moved into the main level of the Filter menu. A new Auto Correction dialog box contains (and also lets you download or create your own) camera and lens profiles. Full autocorrection functionality will be available with the Camera Raw 6.1 plug-in.

#### Better Bristles

Photoshop's painting engine gets an overhaul in CS5, too, improving performance any time you use a brush cursor in any tool.

The new Bristle Tips feature lets you create more-natural paint strokes. A new Brush Preset panel lets you see what the new bristles look like before you use them, and the new Mixer Brush lets you mix colors on your Photoshop canvas. You can even specify how wet the canvas is, how



**Merge To HDR Pro** With Photoshop CS5's new Merge To HDR Pro dialog box, the more exposures you use, the more realistic-looking the final image will be. The surreal-looking image on the left merged three exposures, while the image on the right merged ten.

much paint you're mixing, and how many colors to load onto your brush tip.

### Improved 3D

The new Repoussé feature lets you create 3D versions of 2D items such as text, paths, layer masks, and selections. It creates a 3D layer that you can use with Photoshop's full arsenal of 3D tools. Photoshop requires some time to perform the 3D extrusion, however.

Other new 3D features include Ground Plane Shadow Catcher, which makes it easy to cast realistic shadows beneath 3D objects. Photoshop CS5 also sports faster 3D Ray Tracer rendering, which lets you render a selection, pause and resume rendering, and change the render quality. Adobe also added a slew of materials, light sources, overlays, and more.

### Smaller Tweaks

The new workspace doesn't look much different from Photoshop CS4. The icons on the Tools panel have been modernized and the Application Bar includes a live workspace switcher that can reveal and hold several saved workspaces.

To give you easier access to files through Adobe Bridge, Adobe gave Bridge its own panel inside Photoshop called Mini Bridge. It can't quite do everything Bridge can, but you can still use full-blown Bridge anytime you want.

Photoshop now automatically saves 16-bit JPEGs as 8-bit. The Ruler tool includes a Straighten option. The Crop tool includes a rule-of-thirds grid overlay. The Save dialog box has an Apply To All checkbox. And you can revert to legacy (CS3) keyboard shortcuts for Channels.

Layers got a few upgrades, too. You can adjust the opacity and fill of multiple layers at once, nest layers into a deeper folder structure, save your favorite layer style settings as defaults, and drag and drop files from your desktop into an open Photoshop file to add them as a layer.

### Macworld's Buying Advice

Photoshop updates come along every 18 to 24 months, and not every iteration is upgrade-worthy. But with Photoshop CS5 and CS5 Extended, the decision of whether to upgrade is a no-brainer—especially if you skipped CS4. People who work in graphic design will get a lot of value out of the new Content-Aware Fill feature and improved Refine Edge dialog box. If you never work in 3D, you can get away with the standard version of the program and save \$300. That said, the Extended version includes other goodies like the option to load several images into a Photoshop document automatically, more-powerful video editing, animation control, and more.

For photographers, merging multiple exposures now makes more sense and takes less time; and the Camera Raw enhancements mean photos might not need to spend time in Photoshop at all.

**Lesa Snider**, author of *Photoshop CS5: The Missing Manual* (Pogue Press/O'Reilly) and training videos for KelbyTraining.com and Lynda.com, is chief evangelist of iStockphoto.com.

★★★★★: \$699; upgrade, \$199; Extended version, \$999; upgrade, \$349; Adobe Systems, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com); full review at [macworld.com/6126](http://macworld.com/6126)

## Improve Flash Photos Fast

BY DAVE JOHNSON

Most cameras have an automatic flash mode, but that doesn't mean taking low-light photos is a snap. Here are ways Flash can turn OK photos into great ones.



### Use Flash Modes

Generally speaking, when you're taking pictures of people outdoors in direct sunlight, you should turn on your flash and switch it to Fill Flash to avoid harsh shadows. If your camera has a red-eye-reduction option, use it indoors in low light when shooting pictures of people. Slow-synchro Flash settings will capture more natural light in addition to the flash.

### Use an External Flash

Your camera's built-in flash has a very limited range. In most cases, it will illuminate subjects only up to 10 feet away from your camera. If you need to shoot across longer distances, consider adding an external flash to your camera if it has a hot-shoe attachment. That will extend your range to 30, 40, or even 50 feet. You can also do things with an external flash that you can't do with the built-in flash—like bouncing the light.

### Bounce the Light

If you're using an external flash, try to bounce the light off another surface onto your subject. Direct flash illumination can be harsh and cold. Bouncing it diffuses the light, and the effect can soften and humanize your photos. You can bounce the light off the ceiling or use a bounce card, which diffuses and redirects the light from your flash.

# Make the Move to Aperture 3

How to migrate your photo library from iPhoto '09 to Aperture 3 the smart way

BY DERRICK STORY

**Y**ou've decided to pack up your digital photo library and make the big move from iPhoto '09 to Aperture 3. Luckily, iPhoto '09 integration is one of the many improvements added to Aperture 3.

## Import Your iPhoto Library

The easiest way to transition from iPhoto '09 to Aperture 3 is to use the Import iPhoto Library command in Aperture: File ▶ Import ▶ iPhoto Library.

You can move your iPhoto images into an existing Aperture Library, but since it's so easy to switch from one Aperture library to another on the fly (File ▶ Switch To Library), consider setting up a separate one for your iPhoto work. To do so, go to File ▶ Switch To Library ▶

Other/New. In the dialog box that follows, click the Create New button and select a location.

Once you have a new Aperture library, go back to File ▶ Import ▶ iPhoto Library. In the following dialog box, navigate to the iPhoto library that you want to import. In the Store Files pop-up menu, I recommend that you select In Their Current Location. This points Aperture to your existing iPhoto library so you don't have to import all of your iPhoto images into Aperture. You can keep viewing your work in iPhoto, yet you have all the privileges of Aperture. Neither application will alter the master images stored in the iPhoto library, so edits you make to an image in one program will remain there and not be visible in the other application.

If you want to move all of the masters into Aperture, go to File ▶ Import ▶ iPhoto Library, and choose the library you want to import. From the Store Files pop-up menu, select In The Aperture Library as the destination. You can customize the version filenames for your pictures upon import by using one of the presets in the Version Name pop-up menu.

If you have Raw+JPEG sets in your iPhoto library, you can opt to bring in both versions, just the raw files, or just the JPEG files. If you bring in both, you can have Aperture use the raw version as the master file, use the JPEG instead, or bring in both as separate masters.

Once you've made your decisions, click Import. For a large iPhoto library, the import process could take hours.



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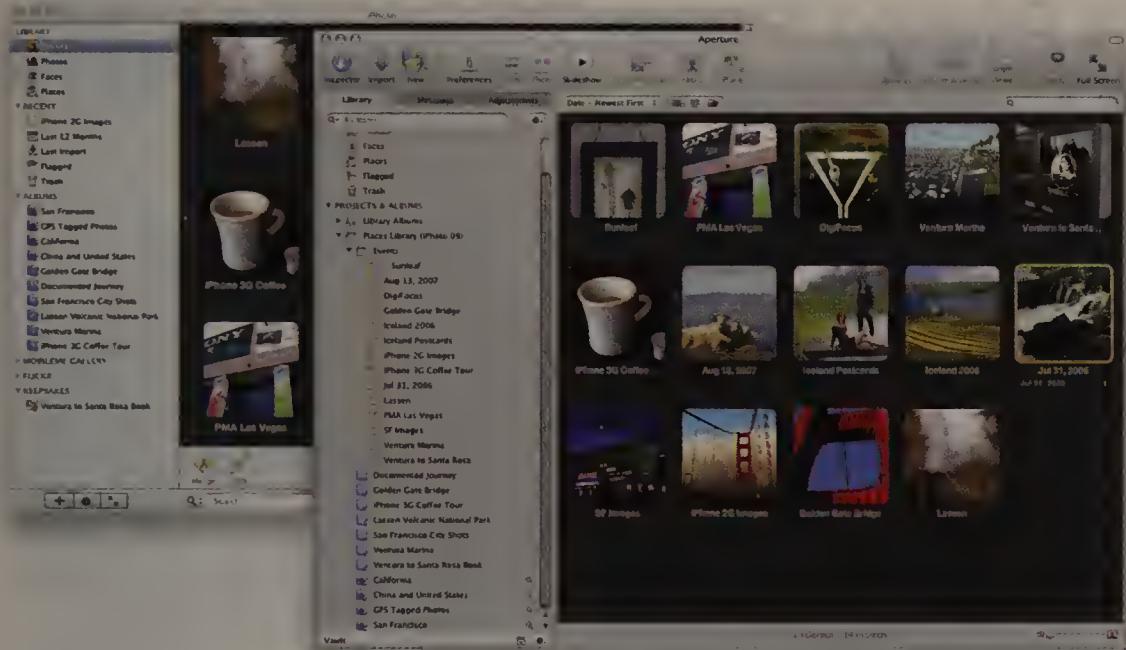
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**iPhoto versus Aperture** A side-by-side comparison of iPhoto '09 and Aperture 3 shows the differences in how they organize your photos.

### See What Goes Where

If you invested time organizing your iPhoto library by using the Events, Smart Albums, Faces, and Places features, you'll be happy to know that all of that work will flow effortlessly into Aperture 3.

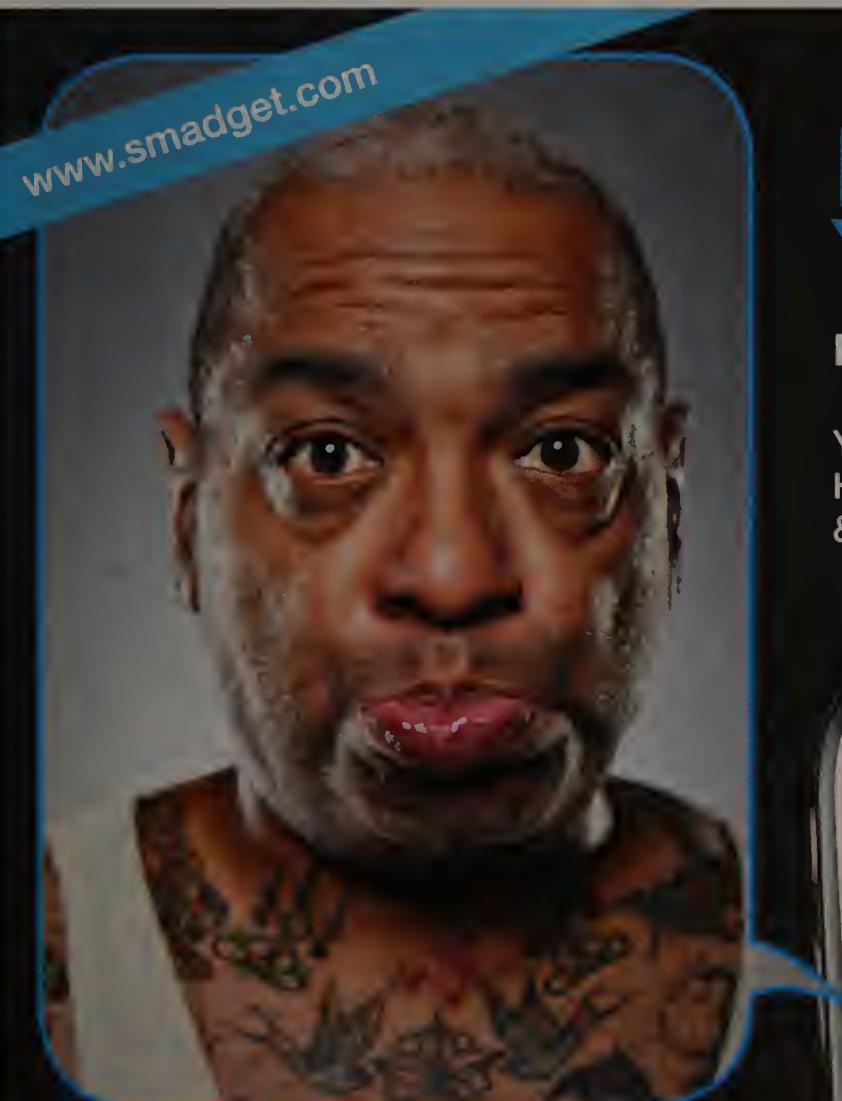
Events from iPhoto are converted to Projects and placed inside a larger folder called Events in Aperture. Albums remain Albums; Smart Albums come over intact. Book Projects are converted into regular Aperture Albums.

The Faces corkboard in Aperture 3 will mirror your iPhoto corkboard after import, and all of your Places information from iPhoto '09 will also appear in the Aperture 3 library.

### Pick and Choose What Is Imported

You can grab individual images from iPhoto, or even entire Events, by going to File ▶ Import ▶ Show iPhoto Browser. You'll see a browser interface that shows your iPhoto Library hierarchy on top, and Events below. Navigate to an image or group of images, and then drag them into the Aperture Library Inspector.

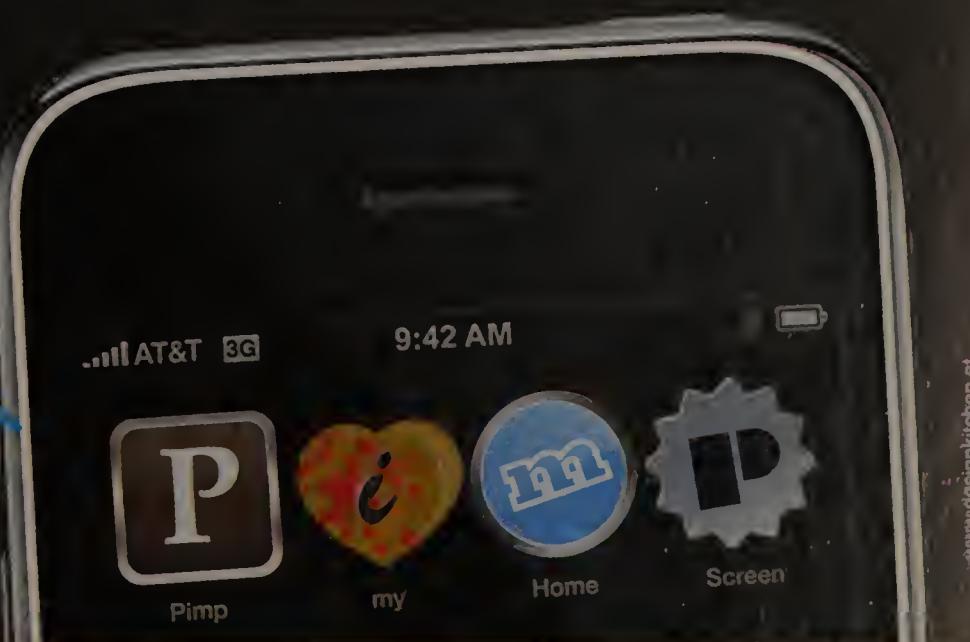
If you bring an entire Event over, Aperture will put it in an untitled project and create an album with the Event name. This method is simple, but Faces information won't transfer and you don't have options for setting up a referenced library since all of the files are moved into the Aperture library. This method is better for bringing in a handful of images instead of an entire collection.



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# Find the Perfect Photo Paper

BY BEN LONG

You spent time researching which camera and printer to buy, and you put effort into shooting great pictures. You want great, lasting prints, so it doesn't make sense to load your photo printer up with just any paper. There's a lot of technology behind photo paper, and different kinds are better for different applications.

**Start with the Finish** Your first concern when choosing a paper should be the finish. Many novice shooters are attracted to glossy papers because the prints appear to have "rich" colors. If you are just printing snapshots to pass around, gloss or semigloss papers can be pretty. However, the gloss creates reflections, and the shine can actually obscure your image.

As your eye improves, you'll likely want to move away from glossy to other finishes like matte. In addition to not creating distracting reflections, a good matte paper will deliver darker blacks than glossy paper. Also, quality matte paper can hold finer detail than glossy.

Another option for images that you want to frame is canvas. A high-quality canvas print will deliver a matte-paper-like contrast and color, but since there's no glass over the print to reduce contrast and saturation, the colors remain much more vibrant from a distance.

Finally, there are "art" papers that deliver a matte finish with a fair amount of texture, such as watercolor paper. These papers offer varying degrees of contrast and color, and a different overall look. Images with broad areas of flat color, like landscapes, work well on these papers.

**Consider Durability and Longevity** Hang a photo in direct light and it will fade. A print from a pigment-ink-based printer will fade more slowly than a print from a dye-ink-based printer, but all prints will ultimately fade. The good news is that a good pigment printer can yield prints that will last for well over a hundred years without fading, and even



some dye printers can deliver upwards of 20 years—better than many color films.

However, since longevity claims often depend on a specific ink and paper combination, you should read the fine print in your printer manual. Most vendors recommend a specific type of paper for archival stability.

**Understand Paper Whiteness** Some papers are whiter than others, an effect usually achieved by adding whitening agents. Unfortunately, the whitening agents can change color—sometimes very quickly. That means the paper will appear very white when it comes out of the printer but in a few weeks may shift to yellow, creating a subtle change in the look of your image. To be certain an image looks the same over time, pick paper that hasn't been artificially brightened.

**Find the Right Brand** If you're serious about printing photos and want to see some better quality and longer-lasting prints, start with the papers manufactured by your printer vendor. What's more, these papers will already be selectable in your printer driver. If you want to branch out and try some other options, consider papers from respected vendors such as Hahnemuehle ([www.hahnemuehle.com](http://www.hahnemuehle.com)), Red River ([www.redriverpaper.com](http://www.redriverpaper.com)), Moab ([moabpaper.com](http://moabpaper.com)), and Ilford ([www.ilford.com/en](http://www.ilford.com/en)). Avoid using a paper that puts out a lot of dust, as this can gum up your printer's works.

**Have Fun** Shopping for a new paper is one of the easiest ways to upgrade the image quality of your photo prints. Set aside time to experiment, find some sample papers, and have fun making prints with your modern-day digital darkroom.

## Reader Tips

Macworld readers share their photo advice

### Organize Memory Cards

The key to working with multiple memory cards is to know which cards are ready and which ones are full. You need a system. For example, I keep my cards in a little zipper wallet; when they are full, I put them in upside down. I can tell at a glance which card to grab because the empty cards will be showing the logo, not the back of the card.

flybynight

### Take Better Underwater Photos

For underwater close-ups, turn the in-camera flash on, use the diffuser that ships with the underwater housing, set the camera to Macro, set the WB (white balance) to Auto, and get close—about two feet. Remember that everything underwater appears to be about 25 percent closer than it is. For wider shots, turn the in-camera flash off, set the mode to Normal, set the WB to Custom, and evaluate the WB by shooting at a gray card every time your lighting or depth changes.

John\_B

### Try a Tethering Workaround

My Sony Alpha DSLR doesn't offer tethering. But with an Eye-Fi card and a folder action, I created a similar setup. When I take a picture with the Alpha, my Eye-Fi SD card sends the photo to a folder on the Mac. The folder has a folder action that tells Aperture to import the photo. So five to ten seconds after I snap a shot, it shows up on my Mac for me to see. And with a wireless remote, I don't have to move away from the computer or wiggle the camera when I shoot. This is not a full tethered solution, but it's an easy workaround.

BruisedApple

If you have a great photography tip you'd like to share, e-mail it to [digitalphoto@macworld.com](mailto:digitalphoto@macworld.com).

# REVIEWS

Hardware, Software, and Accessories  
for Making and Managing Photographs



## HARDWARE

### Pentax K-x ▾

The K-x is a beginner-friendly SLR camera that has most of the latest must-have features. Available in a variety of fun colors, the 12.4-megapixel K-x won't overwhelm anyone trading up from a compact camera. One more-advanced feature is that you can boost the K-x's light sensitivity settings to an equivalent ISO 12800 for flash-free photography in near darkness. Add HD video recording and in-body stabilization from Pentax's own sensor-shifting Shake Reduction mechanism, and the K-x is a winning all-in-one device ([macworld.com/6012](http://macworld.com/6012)). **4½**; \$650; [Pentax, pentaximaging.com](http://PentaxImaging.com)

### Olympus E-600 ▾

The 12.3-megapixel E-600 is aimed at photographers wanting a light, portable digital SLR camera. It comes in a kit with a 14mm to 42mm lens and a 40mm to 150mm lens. An LCD that folds out and swivels gives the E-600 an edge on other SLRs, as does its built-in image stabilization and smaller-than-average form factor.



The light-sensitivity range runs from ISO 100 to 3200. The E-600 writes to either CompactFlash or XD Picture Cards. There are slots for both, and you can transfer files between them. Images display impressive sharpness and even exposure ([macworld.com/6013](http://macworld.com/6013)).

**4½**; \$750 with two lenses; [Olympus, www.olympusamerica.com](http://OlympusAmerica.com)

which excels in dark lighting. The camera has some unique in-camera modes, including Handheld Twilight mode, Sweep Panorama mode, and an Advanced setting in its Scene Recognition mode that lets you take two shots with a single press of the shutter: one with flash and one without ([macworld.com/6015](http://macworld.com/6015)). **4½**; \$330; [Sony, www.sonystyle.com](http://SonyStyle.com)

### Sony Cyber-shot DSC-WX1 ▾

Sony's 10-megapixel Cyber-shot DSC-WX1 with 5X optical zoom features Sony's redesigned, low-light-optimized Exmor R sensor. Those low-light chops are the marquee feature of this compact camera,



## Top Products

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED



### DIGITAL CAMERAS

#### SLR

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^	TYPE	FIND CODE □
E-30 <a href="http://www.olympusamerica.com">www.olympusamerica.com</a>	4½	\$949	12.3-megapixel	4453
EOS 7D <a href="http://www.canon.com">www.canon.com</a>	4½	\$1620	18-megapixel	6014
D-3000 (pictured) <a href="http://imaging.nikon.com">imaging.nikon.com</a>	4½	\$470	10.2-megapixel	6090



### DIGITAL CAMERAS

#### Point-and-Shoot

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^	TYPE	FIND CODE □
Exilim EX-FC100 <a href="http://exilim.casio.com">exilim.casio.com</a>	4½	\$250	9-megapixel	6091
PowerShot S90 (pictured) <a href="http://www.canon.com">www.canon.com</a>	4½	\$372	10-megapixel	6016



### PRINTERS

#### Inkjet

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE ^	TYPE	FIND CODE □
Officejet Pro 8000 Wireless (pictured) <a href="http://www.hp.com">www.hp.com</a>	4½	\$119	document, photo	6017
PictureMate Dash PM 260 <a href="http://www.epson.com">www.epson.com</a>	4½	\$180	snapshot, photo	5609

^ All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. □ In a browser's address field, typing a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) takes you to a product's review or overview.



# HOT STUFF

What We're Raving about This Month



## Bill Atkinson PhotoCard

The Bill Atkinson PhotoCard iPhone app makes it fun and easy to create beautiful postcards to send to friends and family directly from your iPhone. The postcards can either be e-mailed for free or sent via the U.S. Postal Service for around \$2 to anywhere in the United States, or \$3 to anywhere else. You first choose a picture for the front of the card.

The app comes loaded with 150 stunning nature photographs by nature photographer Bill Atkinson. You can also opt to use a picture from your iPhone's photo library or just take a new one. Once you have selected the photo, you can pick from a few basic editing tools to crop, rotate, and darken or lighten the image. On the back of the card, you can enter your message in a number of different fonts and font sizes. You can also choose from around 150 different stamps and even more stickers to place on your postcard (\$5; [macworld.com/6026](http://macworld.com/6026)). —TIM MERCER

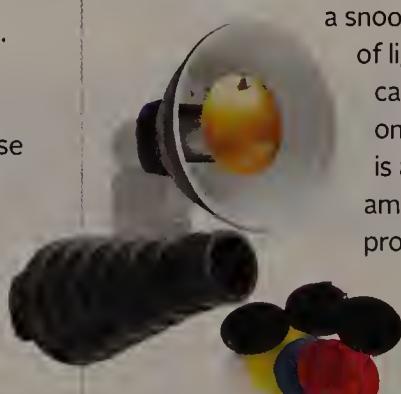
## Seat Belt Camera Strap

Add a little flare to your camera with one of these eye-catching, conversation-starting, and formerly life-saving camera straps. Made out of recycled seat belts plucked from wreck yard cars, these adjustable camera straps come in six colors including teal, red, and lime. Each strap is 2 inches wide and can be adjusted to a maximum 3.5 feet long by sliding the two metal buckles. Get one strap for \$20 or two for \$35 ([macworld.com/6114](http://macworld.com/6114)). —HEATHER KELLY



## Impact Strobros Portrait Kit

You might think any lighting equipment beyond a built-in or hot-shoe flash is for pros only, but there are lots of inexpensive and fun options anyone can use for illuminating photo subjects. One example is the Impact Strobros Portrait Kit. It comes with a dish reflector containing three interior discs, three grids, a neutral filter to reduce light output, three color filters, and a snoot for narrow circle of light. The reflector can mount onto any on-camera flash and is an easy way for amateurs to fake pro lighting (\$83; [macworld.com/6113](http://macworld.com/6113)). —BRENNON SLATTERY



## Carbonmade

If you're interested in marketing yourself as a photographer, or just want a site dedicated to showing off your images, consider hosting your portfolio on Carbonmade.



The allure of a third-party portfolio service is that it combines an ad-free, professional-looking photography Website with easy-to-use back-end management tools that you don't have to know Web design to master. Carbonmade has handsome and clean templates that focus the attention on your art. It costs \$12 a month for one portfolio that holds up to 500 high-resolution images and ten videos. The service also offers a free version that allows you to upload 35 images (free to \$12 a month; [www.carbonmade.com](http://www.carbonmade.com)). —HEATHER KELLY

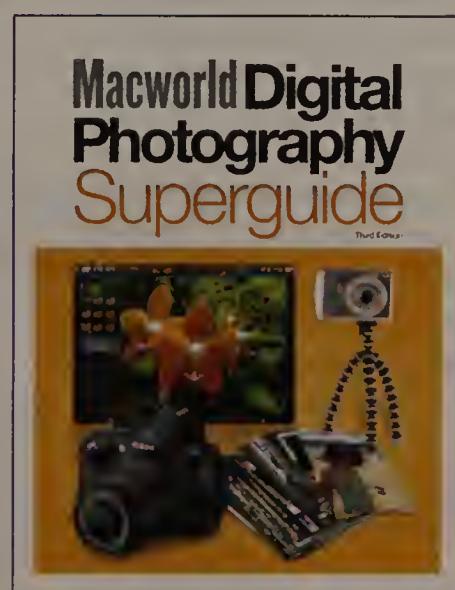
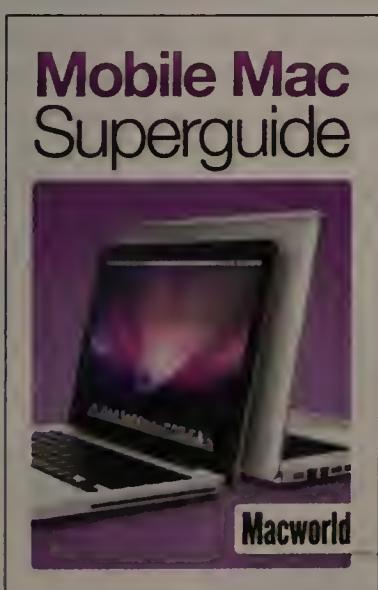
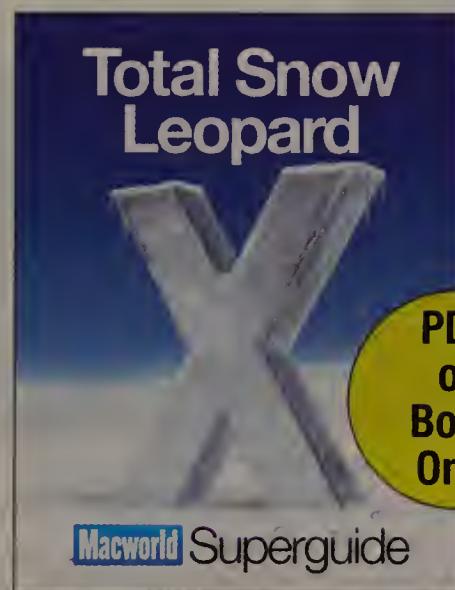
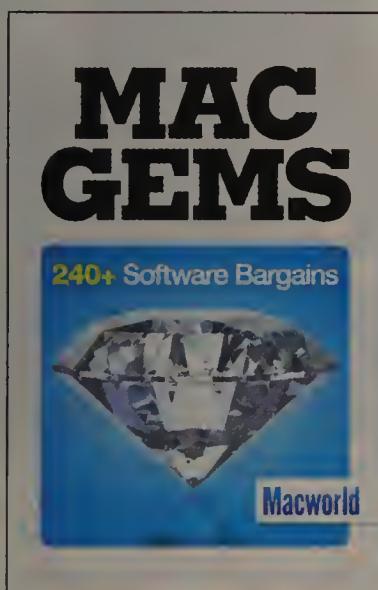
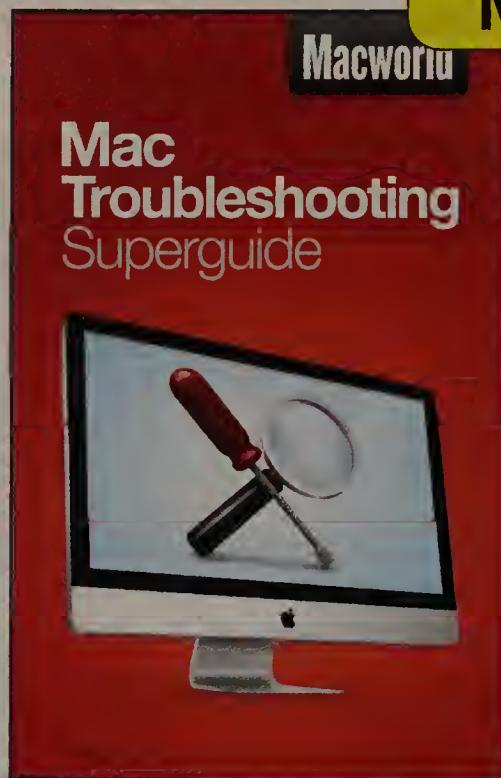
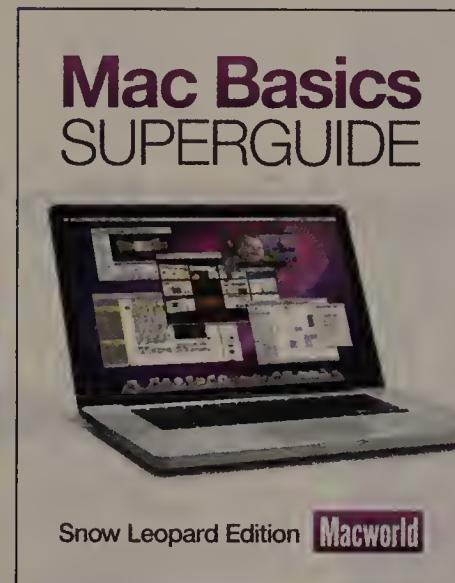
## EPSON P-3000 MEDIA VIEWER

Memory cards fill up fast. And when you're taking photos in the field, lugging around a laptop isn't always an option. The \$400 Epson P-3000 media storage device and viewer is a perfect solution. It holds up to 40GB of photos or videos imported directly from memory. Even better, the P-3000 doubles as a viewing device, so you don't have to lug around a laptop or depend on your camera's tiny screen. Upload your images and preview them on a beautiful, high-resolution, 4-inch LCD screen (\$400; [macworld.com/6112](http://macworld.com/6112)). —HEATHER KELLY



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# CREATE

Using the Web for Video, Graphics, Web Publishing, and Other Creative Pursuits

## Creative Suite 5: Breaking the Tech Barrier

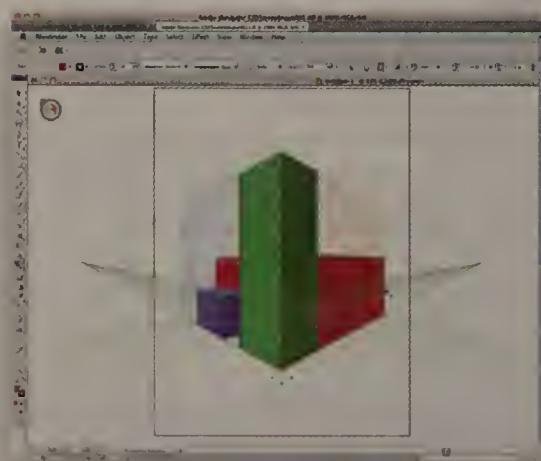
Reviews of Adobe's major new design, Web, and video applications

### REVIEW

Adobe has launched the fifth incarnation of its Creative Suite collection of professional applications for print and Web designers and videographers. This set of coordinated programs, popularly called Adobe CS5, includes new versions of 14 products and their associated apps, four new online services, and Flash Catalyst, a brand-new interactive design program. The suite works only with Intel Macs, contains several native 64-bit apps, and integrates with new online services. Below are abbreviated reviews of some major CS5 apps; a full review of Photoshop CS5 is on page 64. Complete reviews of all Adobe CS5 programs are on Macworld.com.

### Dreamweaver CS5

Adobe Dreamweaver has always offered solid functionality for designing, building, and managing Websites. The latest version features powerful tools for PHP programmers, a new tool for inspecting Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), support for popular content-management systems, and enhancements that make setting up sites and building CSS-based layouts easier.



**Design Perspective** Illustrator CS5's new Perspective Grid simulates drawing in 3D.



**Premiere Pro Speed Boost** The Mercury Playback Engine lets users open projects faster, refine effects-rich HD sequences in real time, and play back complex projects without rendering.

Dreamweaver CS5's most significant additions—such as code-hinting, an improved Live View, and Inspect Mode—are aimed at Web developers building PHP-driven sites. PHP, a free, open-source Web programming language, drives popular content-management systems such as Drupal, Joomla, and WordPress. Dreamweaver CS5 handles all major site-building tasks, from creating HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, to managing files and links, and uploading completed pages to the Web.

4.5; \$399; full review, [macworld.com/6109](http://macworld.com/6109)

### Flash Catalyst CS5

Flash Catalyst CS5, Adobe's brand-new interactive design tool, represents a bold initiative with a narrow and specific function. The program lets designers who aren't coders fashion interactive graphical elements that, aside from a few basic actions, come to

life as components of a Flash project. Catalyst projects are intended to be handed off to Flash Builder 4, which is now a member of the CS5 family.

Flash Catalyst's boundaries are defined by The Three No's: No design (drawing tools are limited; you draw objects in Illustrator or Photoshop); no coding (you use Flash Builder); and no animation (you use Flash Professional). With Flash Catalyst, Adobe has pried apart the major interactive design functions and targeted them to the designers, programmers, and animators best able to accomplish specific tasks. Combined with finely synchronized support for Illustrator and Photoshop artwork, the essential magic of Catalyst is that it can convert that artwork to interactive components.

Catalyst is an interesting innovation with potentially significant implications for Flash development, but it debuts as a 1.0 product, a work in progress. It's

stable, but its features are quite limited.  
  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; \$399; full review, [macworld.com/6107](http://macworld.com/6107)

Illustrator CS5

Illustrator CS5 provides something inspiring for just about everyone, from artists and technical illustrators to Web and Flash designers.

New features like variable-width strokes, Bristle Brush, Perspective Grid, antialiasing online text, and integration with Flash Catalyst make Illustrator CS5 a compelling upgrade.

Illustrators will either love or hate the new perspective drawing feature. The new Perspective Grid tool converts your flat artboard into simulated 3D space, complete with planes and vanishing points. You can dynamically adjust the position of the vertical planes, raise or lower the ground level, and even switch between one-, two-, and three-point perspectives.

Some of the most noticeable improvements in Illustrator CS5 are to the application's painting system, such as variable-width strokes, stretch control and corner control for brushes, better dashed lines and arrowheads, and a new Bristle Brush.

Illustrator now supports editing with the new designer-centric Flash Catalyst CS5. Numerous smaller but highly utilitarian new features include a Shape Builder tool, new modes for

drawing behind or inside objects, and resolution-independent effects.

Illustrator CS5 is much snappier than CS4, and that translates directly into increased productivity.

 \$599; full  
review, macworld  
.com/6111

InDesign CS5

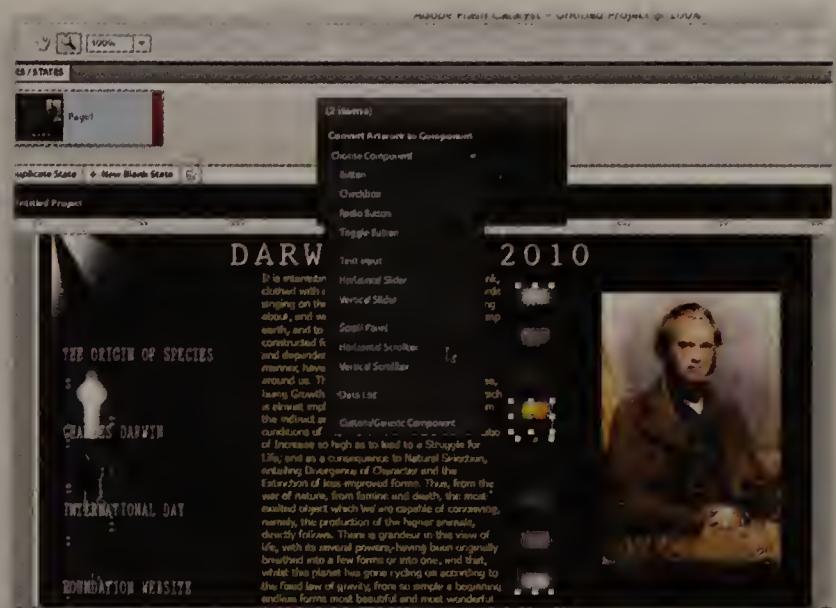
According to Flash Catalyst Debuc  
Adobe's research, coders, Catalyst CS  
InDesign isn't just for print anymore; it's now used for a wide range of projects, including those targeted to online and mobile devices.

These days, customers crave easier ways to add interactivity, export documents to Flash, and create e-books, and they seek streamlined techniques for the functions they use day in and day out. When you evaluate the new release of InDesign with these goals in mind, the CS5 version is a great success.

For mere mortals and page-layout jockeys, InDesign CS5 now requires fewer steps for manipulating page objects. The Layers panel has been redesigned and now resembles the one in Adobe Illustrator. A new Balance

Columns feature keeps the length of all the columns in a multicolumn text frame balanced—even as you edit the text.

A major structural change is the ability to include multiple page sizes in one document, which makes it much easier to maintain consistent formatting across items in a project, such as ads, brochures, and



**Flash Catalyst Debut** Bridging the gap between designers and coders, Catalyst CS5 aids visual creation of interactive elements.

business cards. For print publishers taking the plunge into interactive and electronic documents, InDesign CS5 is a must-have.

  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; \$699; full review, [macworld.com/6110](http://macworld.com/6110)

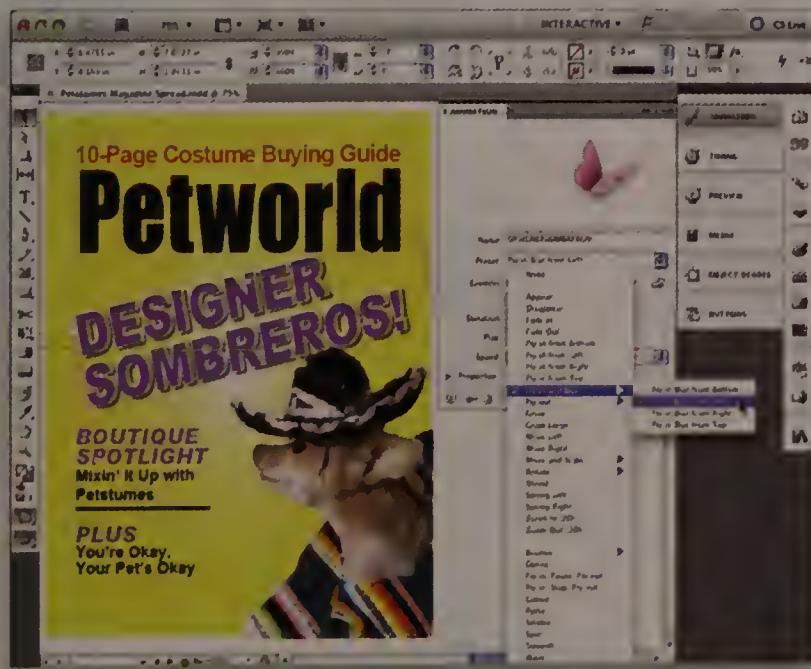
Premiere Pro CS5

The latest version of Adobe's professional video-editing program doesn't look all that much different than its predecessor at first glance. That's because most of the development effort went into the engine.

Premiere Pro CS5 sports the Mercury Playback Engine, a software mechanism that improves the program's performance—especially when paired with a qualified graphics processor. Like some other CS5 programs, Premiere Pro is now a native 64-bit application. It supports an exceptional range of formats natively.

Other added features include expanded tapeless format support, scalable playback resolution, the Ultra chroma key effect, better still-frame export, and the ability to export directly from Premiere Pro. But apart from enhanced performance and stability, the most notable new feature is the way Premiere Pro CS5 fits into a workflow that integrates new software and services—particularly Adobe Story, a new online script-creation and collaboration program.

 \$799; full review, [macworld.com/6108](http://macworld.com/6108)



**Interactive Elements** The Interactive workspace preset in InDesign CS5 provides the necessary tools to create and control animations.

# The Labeling Game

How to create CD and DVD labels with your Mac

BY ADAM BERENSTAIN

**T**hese days, we can save our files to flash drives, iPods, and the ever-present cloud. But old-fashioned optical media still has one advantage over other storage methods—you can easily label your discs to see their contents at a glance. When a permanent marker isn't the right tool for the job, use your Mac and a printer to create labels.

## Use Your Current Printer

Labeling discs can be as simple as buying a pack of Avery disc labels and downloading a free template file. Media label packs range from about \$11 to \$75 and are available with jewel case inserts, DVD case sleeves, and other extras. Avery's templates are compatible with iPhoto, Adobe's desktop publishing applications, and

programs that can open Microsoft Word files (such as Apple's Pages). But if you lack one of these programs, you can use Avery's free online tools to create labels.

## Use a Label Printer

You can eliminate the need for stickers by printing directly onto specially coated CDs and DVDs. To do so, you'll need a conventional printer that can print to optical media, a dedicated disc printer, or an optical drive that burns both data and labels to your discs.

Epson's Artisan 810 (\$300) is an all-in-one inkjet printer that also prints on discs. If you don't need the 810's advanced features, consider the Artisan 50 (\$130), which also prints to discs as well as traditional media.

Bring disc printing to your desktop with Dymo's DiscPainter (\$280). It's not much larger than a stack of DVD cases, and it prints directly on a disc in as little as three minutes.

When buying blank media for these printers, be sure to get inkjet-printable discs. They're more expensive than traditional discs, but also more convenient.

For the ultimate space saver, consider a DVD-burning drive—like LaCie's d2 DVD±RW with LightScribe (\$110). LightScribe drives can etch grayscale images and text onto CDs and DVDs with the same laser that burns your data—just flip the disc (so its label side is facing down) and etch its label.

Creating labels with LightScribe-capable drives requires special discs

It's 2010. Can your personal finance software export to TurboTax or Excel? Schedule payments? Track buys and sells in your portfolio? Let you enter, edit or split transactions manually? Sync to a mobile version for iPhone? Protect your data? Handle multiple currencies? Print custom checks? Import accounts, transactions and investments from Quicken? **iBank** can.

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IGG SOFTWARE



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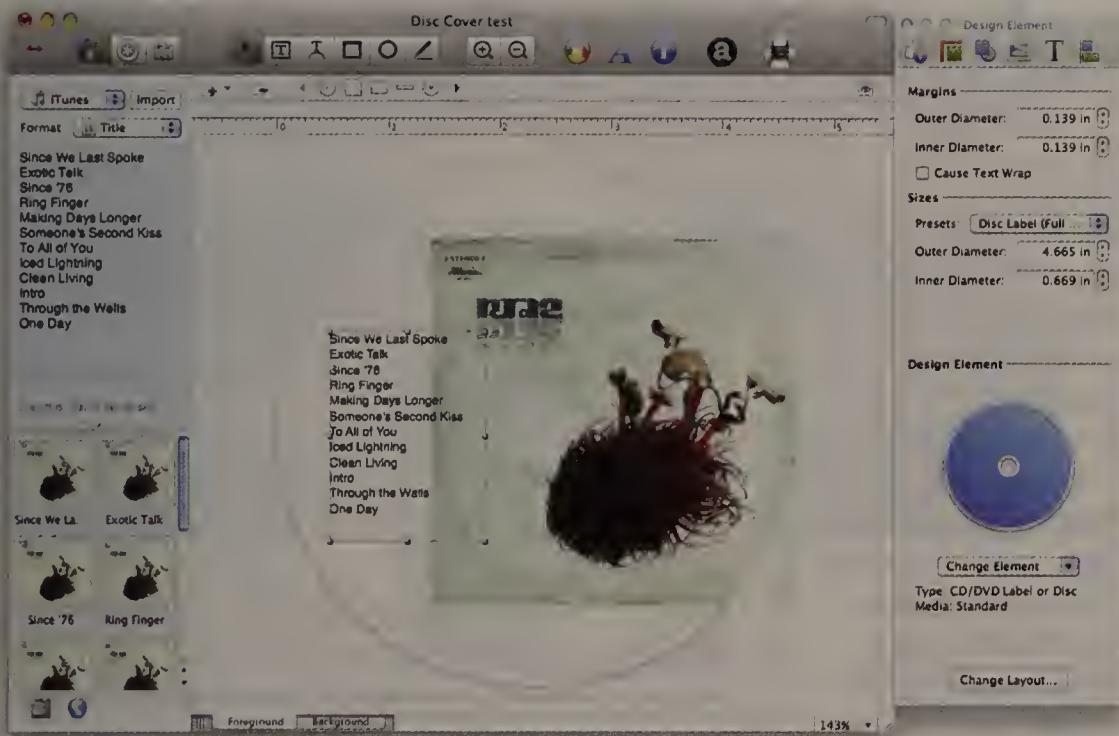
OfficeMax

MICRO CENTER

TEKSERVE

amazon.com  
and you're done

Apple Stores



**iLife Integration** Disc Cover's iLife-like layouts put your iTunes tracks and even iDVD pictures a click away.

that are more expensive than ordinary media. However, LightScribe drives will burn data normally to traditional discs as well.

### Use Label-Making Software

A dedicated label-making program includes templates for DVD booklets, jewel case inserts, and many more

documents that work with label packages from a wide variety of manufacturers.

BeLight Software's Disc Cover (\$35) offers extensive integration with your iLife library—you can even add iDVD slideshow pictures and a thumbnail of your DVD's menu to your projects. A Cover Flow-like browser offers a range of layouts and art.

The extensive library of clip art and premade designs in iWinSoft's CD/DVD Label Maker (\$30) help get your label started, and the ability to generate barcodes for your designs is a handy extra. But lack of iLife integration (it does support imported iTunes track data) and lack of drag-and-drop support for adding images to projects are unfortunate.

While the program's busy interface takes some getting used to, a generous preview window simplifies printing.

There are even more software choices available. Discus, from Magic Mouse Productions, and Label Printer Pro, from Pay&Play Software, offer similar features as well as limited trial downloads.

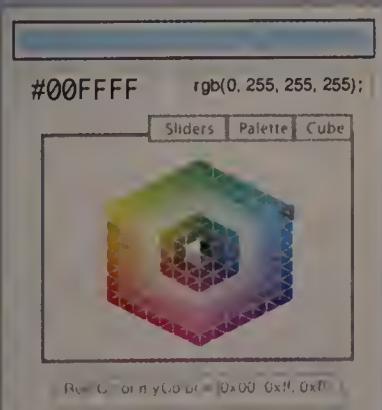
! NEW !

## EazyDraw Version 3.4

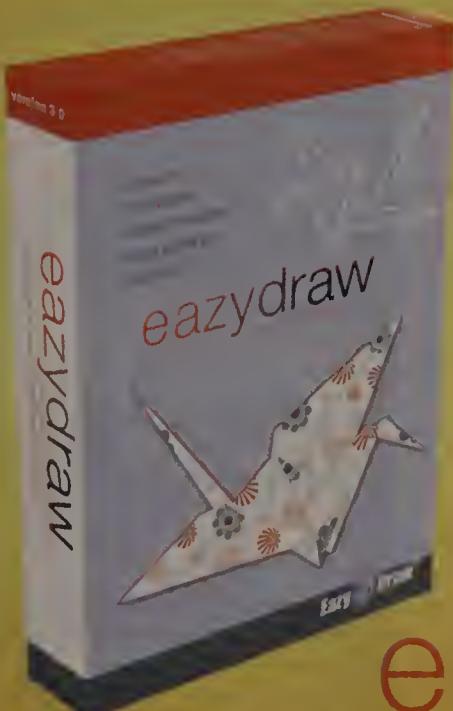
! NEW with SVG !

### WebColorPicker

A RGB / hexadecimal plugin for your Mac OS X color panel.



[www.WebColorPicker.com](http://www.WebColorPicker.com)



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# Ten Expert Scrapbook Design Tips

BY KATHERINE MURRAY

**M**aybe you've been experimenting with digital scrapbooking—a page here, some text and photos there—and you're thinking of taking on a more creative project. The following tips help bring a designer's eye to your pages.

**1. Know What You Like** Keep a file or Internet folder of scrapbook pages you like. Note the color scheme, fonts, the placement of embellishments. Pay attention to details and consider how elements that jump out at you could add that special something to your own pages.

**2. Use Your Resources** Whether you use a digital scrapbooking program or create pages with image-editing software, you'll find a wide variety of resources online, as well as in books and magazines. Software programs like iScrapbook and PrintMaster offer online sites with scrapbooking kits of papers, embellishments, and low-cost templates you can purchase.

**3. Keep a Clear Focus** Know which element is most important on your page and create your design so that all other elements support it. For example, if a large photo in the upper right corner of the page is the focal point, place and size your text, embellishments, and shapes so that they enhance the larger image. This gives the page balance and clarity.

**4. Use Your Best Images** When you're viewing a photo in a regular album or online, a little fuzziness might not seem like a big deal, but it will on your scrapbook page. In choosing a photo as the primary focal point, make sure it's a great image. Use your photo-editing software to clarify edges, balance color, and adjust lighting or red-eye problems.

**5. Crop to Perfection** There's no rule that says you have to use an entire image on a scrapbooking page—in fact, there's almost a rule that says you shouldn't. Just crop your image to the most compelling portion of the photo to help readers focus on the main element.

**6. Set Color Scheme** Consider the type of energy your photo—and the story

it tells—brings to the page. Then choose a color scheme that flows naturally from the photo to convey the atmosphere you intend.

**7. Balance Your Page** You might center important elements on the page, but you can also achieve a great effect by putting key elements on one side of the page or in a corner. Make sure your viewers always have an interesting view.

**8. Fonts Are Important** Fonts can be traditional, stoic, playful, or loud. Try making headlines and single-word embellishments artsier than long blocks of text, which you want your viewers to be able to read easily.

**9. Embellish Away** Embellishments can add great fun and creativity to your



**Templates and Kits** Scrapbooking software sites offer a huge variety of creative templates and kits that you can purchase, download, and use for your own pages.

pages. You might scan a concert ticket or a photograph of those retro tennis shoes.

**10. Break the Rules** Don't be afraid to experiment. It's your story, and no one will tell it—or show it—better than you.

## Top Products

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED

### DVD BURNERS

Desktop and Portable

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
MediaStation 8X External Blu-ray Writer (pictured) www.buffalotech.com	4 1/2	\$300	Blu-ray	5344
d2 DVD±RW w/LightScribe www.lacie.com	4 1/2	\$107	desktop	3900

### CAMCORDERS

High Definition

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE <sup>A</sup>	TYPE	FIND CODE <sup>B</sup>
Flip MinoHD (120 Minutes) (pictured) www.theflip.com	4 1/2	\$160	mini camcorder	5512
Panasonic HDC-HS300 www.panasonic.com	4 1/2	\$938	HDD/SD Card Hybrid	6106

<sup>A</sup> All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers at press time. <sup>B</sup> In a browser's address field, typing a find code after [macworld.com/](http://macworld.com/) takes you to a product's review or overview.

# MacMania 11

February 4–16, 2011



## Patagonian Adventure: Argentina, Uruguay, Falkland Islands, & Chile

InSightCruises.com/Mac-11

Round the Horn with MacMania! The stuff of legends awaits you in the cafes of Argentina, the pampas of Uruguay, the penguin-populous shores of the Falkland Islands, the grandeur of Patagonia, the Chilean fjords, and lively Santiago. Back at the ranchero, Fake Steve talks satire, innovation, and destruction; Leo Laporte is your media mentor; Don McAllister brings you the practical mastery of your Mac; and Mac OS X ninja Sal Soghoian serves you apps from A to Z. Grassroots sessions with MacMania Alums Cherwinski, Grollman, and Jackson help get your creativity out there.

Meet like-minded Mac types and get in on the MacMania 11 adventure on Holland America Line's ms Veendam, sailing Buenos Aires, Argentina to Santiago, Chile February 4–16, 2011.



### PRE- and/or POST-CRUISE TOURS

**IGUAZU FALLS & MACHU PICCHU ADVENTURE CALLING —**  
explore UNESCO World Heritage sites in pre- and post-MacMania 11 excursions. Breeze into legendary Iguazu Falls, home of the U-shaped 246' Devil's Throat cataract, January 31–February 2, 2011. Scale the Andes and absorb Machu Picchu's aura in luxury or standard packages, February 17–19, 2011. Details at InSightCruises.com/Mac-11.



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(SANTIAGO)

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AMALIA GLACIER  
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Stanley  
Ushuaia

BUENOS AIRES  
Montevideo

Holland  
America Line  
CAPE HORN  
BEAGLE CHANNEL

Cruise prices start at \$1,629 per person. The MacMania 11 Program is \$1,095.  
Taxes and other fees are \$259 pp.

For more info contact Neil at 650-787-5665 or neil@InSightCruises.com

Here is a sampling of the 24 sessions you can participate in while we're at sea. For a full listing of seminars visit InSightCruises.com/Mac11-seminars

**Master Your iPad** — The iPad is game-changing and will quickly become indispensable. Its easy interface combines simplicity with ability, enabling easy access to essential information. You'll explore the iPad's variety of uses: from browsing books, managing email, navigating maps, to building documents and presentations.

Speaker: Sal Soghoian

**Fake Steve: How a Simple Practical Joke Utterly Changed My Life** — I was a bored-to-death 40-something tech reporter at Forbes magazine, and wanted to learn about blogging. So, on a lark, I started a blog where I pretended to be Steve Jobs. I thought I'd do it for a few weeks and then shut it down. Instead, four years later, the blog is more popular than ever. The whole experience has changed my life. Using slides and screen grabs, I'll share some of the funniest stuff from the blog, and a reminder that sometimes satire and humor are the best weapons for telling the truth. Speaker: Dan Lyons

**60 iPhone Apps in 60 Minutes** — With over 10,000 applications in the iTunes App Store it might be hard to find the best of the best. Leo's picked 60 fun, useful, and sometimes mind-boggling applications. Fasten your seatbelt for a fast-paced ride through the wonderful world of iPhone applications. Speaker: Leo Laporte

**Turning Your Mac Mini Into a Media Center** — Leo takes you beyond the AppleTV by showing how you can use a full-blown Macintosh to create the ultimate home entertainment center. Topics will include software solutions like Front Row, Boxee, XBMC, Plex, and EyeTV plus hardware solutions from El Gato and Pinnacle, and useful accessories like remote controls, cable box interfaces, and wired and wireless video distribution systems. You'll leave this hour ready to create your own system. Speaker: Leo Laporte

**Creating Fabulous Videos** — As camcorders become smaller and more powerful and desktop production tools offer more professional results, people are using their Macs to recapture their travels and adventures in an elegant way. But the challenge remains: how to organize the material into compelling shows to share with other people. Drawing from his long experience with photography and film, Wally Cherwinski covers how to plan, shoot, and shape video footage and stills into a memorable story.

Speaker: Wally Cherwinski, Ph.D.

Macworld  
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THE JOURNEY WITHIN

CST# 2065380-40

# HELP DESK

Answering Your Questions and Sharing Your Tips about Getting the Most From Your Mac

## Mac OS X Hints

The insider tips you won't get from Apple

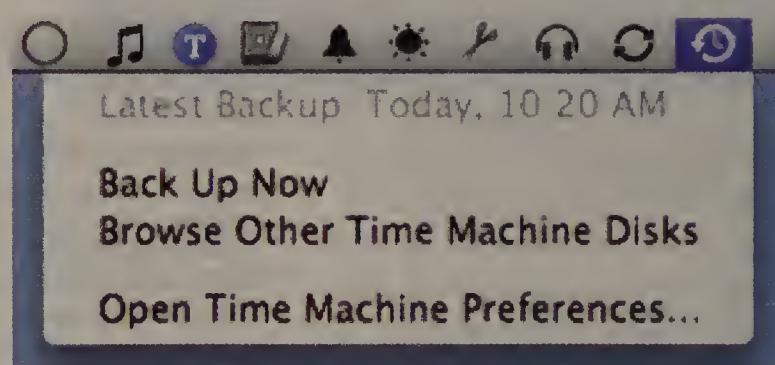
BY MACWORLD STAFF

### Access Old Time Machine Drives

If you've ever upgraded the hard drive you use for Time Machine backups, you know there's no easy way to transfer existing backups to the new drive (see "When You Outgrow Your Backup Disk," *Working Mac*, June 2010). But there is a way to browse the older backup drives from Time Machine itself.

To do so, connect the old drive to your Mac. Then hold down the Option key as you open the Time Machine menu from the menu bar. The Enter Time Machine menu item will change to Browse Other Time Machine Disks. If you still have the Time Machine application in your Dock, Control-click (or click and hold) its icon and choose Browse Other Time Machine Disks.

Whichever way you do it, you'll see a dialog box that reads, "These disks contain Time Machine backups. Select the disk you want to use with Time Machine." From the list of Time Machine drives, choose the one you want to browse. You'll then have to navigate to the folder containing the files you want to restore. But once you find the right folder, you can use the



### Time Machine

**Option** By holding down the Option key when opening the Time Machine menu, you can access other Time Machine disks containing older backups.

standard Time Machine interface to browse and restore from backups.

### Customize Spaces Desktops

One of the most frequent criticisms about Mac OS X's Spaces feature is simple: You can't assign a different desktop background to individual workspaces. It'd obviously be useful to do so: the more visually distinct each workspace is, the easier it would be to know which one you're using.

There are a couple of utilities—Hyperspaces ([macworld.com/6075](http://macworld.com/6075)) and SpaceSuit ([www.docklandsoft.com](http://www.docklandsoft.com)) among them—that can fix that for you. A third, SpaceStation ([macworld.com/6076](http://macworld.com/6076)), is particularly light on your system resources, and it's free. The only downside is that it requires a bit of manual fiddling in .plist files. If that doesn't concern you, and if you're interested in checking out SpaceStation, here's how to do the fiddling:

After downloading, you unzip and install SpaceStation, open your Preferences folder (`youruserfolder/Library/Preferences`) and double-click on the file '`com.beardedllama.SpaceStation.plist`'. If you have Apple's Developer Tools installed on your Mac, the file should open in Property List Editor; if you don't, the file will open in your default text editor.

In either case, you'll see a list of 16 numerical keys and one Default key. Key 1 determines the desktop image for workspace number 1, key 2 for workspace 2, and so on; the Default key determines the image used for any workspace to which you haven't assigned your own specific desktop image.

To specify the image you want on each workspace, find its key and, on the line below it, between `<string>` and `</string>`, type or paste the path of the image you want to use. For example:

```
<key>1</key>
<string>/Library/Desktop
Pictures/Aqua Blue.jpg</string>
```

If you're using Property List Editor, instead double-click the Value field to the right of String for Picture 1, and then type or paste the path to the desired background image for workspace 1. (You can also drag an image file into the Value field.)

Whichever method you use, repeat the procedure for each workspace you want to customize. After logging out and then back in, SpaceStation should notice when you switch from one workspace to another, check to see which workspace is active, and set the desktop image accordingly.

### Reduce Amazon Download Clutter

By default, the Amazon MP3 Downloader

### Have a Hint to Share?

If so, go to [MacOSXHints.com](http://MacOSXHints.com) to submit it. This column was based on tips from Paul Goracke, Tony Tortorelli, and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.



## POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

### Quickly Create .tar Files

Creating a compressed file archive in the Finder is easy: Select the files, Control-click, and then select Compress Items from the contextual menu. But what if you want to package files in one file without compressing them? Here's an easy way to create uncompressed .tar files.

Open Automator and select Service from the workflow template sheet. Set the Service Receives Selected option to Files Or Folders, and set the In option to Finder.app.

Drag Run Shell Script

from the Utilities action library list into the workflow area. Set Pass Input to As Arguments. Then replace the sample code in the input area with the code at right.

Select File ▶ Save and name your new Service. Quit Automator, select some files in the Finder, and then Control-click and select the service from the Services submenu. That will create the .tar file in the current folder; you can then rename or move it.

#### Create .tar File Script

```
Tarfile="$1.tar"
count=1
cd "${@%/*}"
if [ $# -eq 1 ]; then
    while [ -e "$Tarfile" ]
    do
        let count++
        Tarfile="$1 $count.tar"
    done
else
    Tarfile="Archive.tar"
    while [ -e "$Tarfile" ]
    do
        let count++
        Tarfile="Archive $count.tar"
    done
fi
/usr/bin/tar -chf "$Tarfile" "${@##*/}"
```

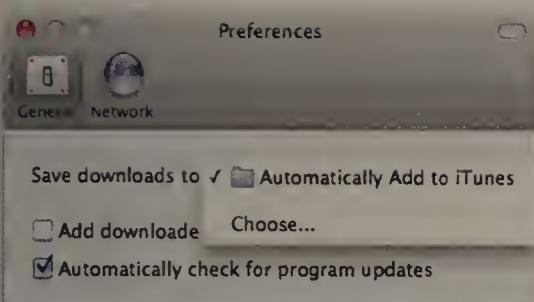
home. Then let's say you brought home a DOCX (.docx) document that you created at work and you want to print it out on your printer at home. You can't open the .docx file in your older version of Word. What to do? There are a bunch of different work-arounds, including the following:

1. Download Microsoft's free Open XML Converter utility ([macworld.com/6078](http://macworld.com/6078)), and use it to convert the .docx document to .doc format, which you can then open and print in the old version of Word. (The converter also works on Excel and PowerPoint files.)

2. Open it in NeoOffice (free; [www.neooffice.org](http://www.neooffice.org)), OpenOffice (free; [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)),TextEdit (included with Mac OS X; [support.apple.com/kb/ht2523](http://support.apple.com/kb/ht2523)), or Pages ([macworld.com/4352](http://macworld.com/4352)) and print it from there. Note that you may lose some formatting or other features in the process.

3. Rename the .docx file by removing the X and then opening it as a .doc file in the old copy of Word. Again, you may lose some of the original's formatting or other special features.

4. Upload the .docx document to Google Docs (using the Upload button in the upper left of Docs' home screen), open it, and then click on Print. Doing so converts the document to PDF, which you can then print. This last method is particularly useful for the times when the original document has formatting or features that you don't want to lose.



**Cleaner Downloads** To reduce clutter, automatically add Amazon MP3s to iTunes.

([macworld.com/6077](http://macworld.com/6077)) application automatically adds downloaded files to iTunes for you. But, also by default, it doesn't clean up those downloaded files once they've been copied into your iTunes library; they just sit there in your Amazon MP3 folder until you go back and manually delete them. You can correct this with a little tweak to the Downloader's settings.

In the General tab of the Amazon MP3 Downloader's preferences, open Save Downloads To and select the Automatically Add To iTunes folder (in your iTunes Music folder by default). While still in the General tab, uncheck Add Downloaded Tracks To iTunes.

Next time you buy an MP3 from Amazon and it finishes downloading, click on View Download Folder on the Downloads Complete dialog box. You'll see that there are no files there. If you open iTunes, you should see your new tunes, ready to play.

### Open DOCX Files without Word 2008

Let's say you have Word 2008 installed at work and an older version of Word at

Property List	Class	Value
Root	Dictionary	2 key value pairs
Pictures	Dictionary	17 key value pairs
1	String	/Library/Desktop Pictures/Aqua Blue.jpg
10	String	
11	String	
12	String	
13	String	
14	String	
15	String	
16	String	
2	String	/Library/Desktop Pictures/Nature/CLOWN FISH.jpg
3	String	/Library/Desktop Pictures/Nature/CIRQUES.jpg
4	String	/Library/Desktop Pictures/Nature/Dew Drop.jpg
5	String	

**Customizing Spaces Backgrounds** The utility SpaceStation lets you specify a different background for each of your workspaces.

# Mac 911

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN

## Make Allowances for Underage iTunes Users

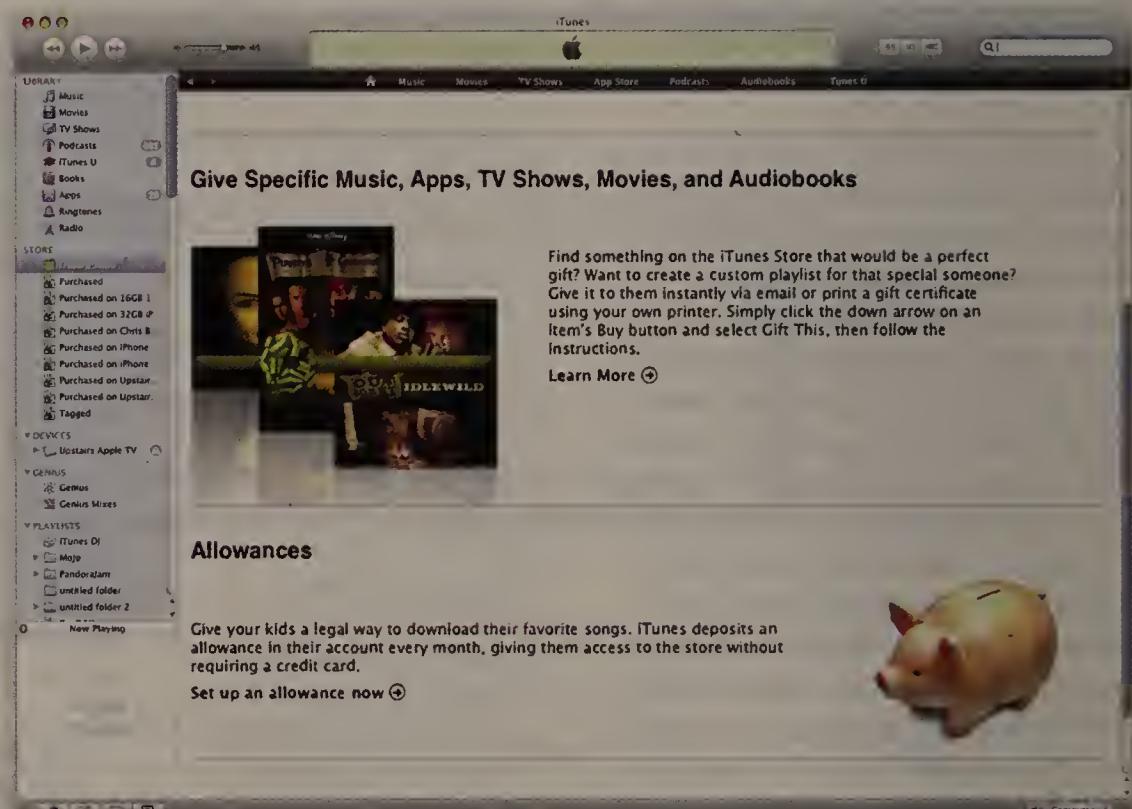
**Q:** I have both an iTunes Store account and a 13-year-old daughter. I refuse to give my daughter my iTunes account password because it links to my credit card. My daughter doesn't seem to be able to create her own account because she doesn't have her own credit card. So she feels stymied and frustrated. Am I missing something here?

Simon Tanner

**A:** What you're not missing is a several-hundred-dollar hole in your pocket that might result from your daughter downloading a mess of angst-ridden *godhelpus* from the iTunes Store. However, you don't want her feeling of frustration to compel her to steal music.

You have ways to help that don't require access to your credit card. Travel to the iTunes Store's Home page and click the Buy iTunes Gifts link. Here you'll find options for purchasing gift certificates, gift cards, and allowances. (You can also purchase specific music, TV shows, movies, and apps.)

I'd strongly consider the Allowance option (see "Making Allowances"). With an allowance, you can set aside a certain amount of money that your daughter can spend each month—from \$10 to \$50, in \$10 increments. When you sign up for this allowance you'll also be asked to use or create an Apple ID for your daughter. This account can't be used to purchase items that exceed the value of



**Making Allowances** iTunes' Allowance option lets underage iTunes users purchase music, videos, and applications.

a month's allowance. And you can suspend the allowance any time you like.

## Uninstall Norton AntiVirus

**Q:** I was running Norton AntiVirus 10.0 on my iMac. I decided to uninstall it. Now when I restart, I get many small dialog boxes telling me that auto-protect cannot be activated. It's obvious I didn't uninstall this properly. How do I get these boxes to go away forever?

Randolph Walker

**A:** I've yet to encounter a product bearing the Norton name that can be uninstalled simply by dragging a file or folder to the Trash. These utilities work their magic deep down and scatter files hither and yon. If you don't follow the correct procedure for removing them, this can happen.

And the proper procedure is to locate the Symantec Solutions folder inside the Applications folder at the root level of

your hard drive, launch the Symantec Uninstaller application, select the Symantec AntiVirus Corporate, Norton AntiVirus, and Norton AntiVirus Auto-Protect entries, and click the Uninstall button. Confirm your decision when prompted and then enter your administrator password in the space provided. You'll be asked to restart your Mac. Do so and Norton should be gone for good. If it's not, download a copy of Symantec's RemoveSymantecMacFiles removal utility ([macworld.com/6048](http://macworld.com/6048)). This utility will launch Terminal and remove the Norton components.

## Play 5.1 Audio in iTunes

**Q:** I have a 17-inch MacBook Pro (2009 vintage), which has a digital optical output. I'm trying to play 5.1 audio through iTunes, but I find that my receiver plays only stereo audio. Is there a way to do this?

Lyle Opseth

## Have a Problem?

Go to the Mac 911 forum ([macworld.com/2467](http://macworld.com/2467)) for help with your misbehaving Mac or applications.



**A:** There is, but it's hardly straightforward. The method, originally posted by Graham Booker in his Record and Reverie blog ([macworld.com/6049](http://macworld.com/6049)), describes the process. Here's the gist for movies that contain AC3 audio files:

Install a copy of the free Perian QuickTime plug-in ([www.perian.org](http://www.perian.org)) on your Mac. String an optical cable between your Mac and a compatible receiver. Launch Audio Midi Setup (found in /Applications/Utilities), and in the audio output area select Digital Out from the Source pop-up menu and 48000.0Hz and 2ch, 16-bit in the Format area. Launch the Terminal app and enter:

```
defaults write com.cod3r.a52codec  
attemptPassthrough 1
```

Press Return.

If iTunes is running, quit and relaunch it. Locate the movie you want to view, and play it with iTunes' volume slider set to its highest level. Also be sure that the equalizer is off. Place your cursor over the movie so that the on-screen controls appear, click on the small bubble icon, and choose the surround-sound track. iTunes should now play the movie with surround-sound audio. This trick should also let you play 5.1 audio in Front Row.

### Cure for Intractable Icons

**Q:** My son came over the other day to "help" me with my Mac by rearranging the icons on my Mac's desktop. They're organized by name, but I can't move any of them out of position. When I try, they move right back to where they were. How can I undo what my son did?

**Robert Drake**

**A:** If, while in the Finder, you choose View ▶ Clean Up, the icons on the desktop will snap to an invisible grid. (If something on the desktop is selected, this command will change to Clean Up Selection.)

Below the Clean Up command in the View menu is the Arrange By command, with Name, Date Modified, Date Created, Size, Kind, and Label appearing in its

submenu. Select the option you want and the Desktop items will be arranged that way (with any mounted volumes appearing first in the upper right corner of the screen).

There's one more, less-obvious option. Select View ▶ Show View Options (⌘-J). At the bottom of the Desktop window that appears, you'll see an Arrange By pop-up menu, which offers these choices: None, Snap To Grid, Name, Date Modified, Date Created, Size, Kind, and Label. From all appearances this menu would seem to duplicate the function of the Arrange By command, but it doesn't. When you select one of these options, the icons will arrange themselves accordingly, but they will then insist on remaining in that order. When you try to move them elsewhere, they'll snap back into position.

Knowing this, the answer is simple. Open this window and choose either Snap To Grid (which allows you to move icons,

but will snap them to the desktop's invisible grid) or None (see "A Better View"). Should you later wish to rearrange your icons without this intractable result, use the View ▶ Arrange By command.

### Cope with a High-Resolution Monitor

**Q:** I finally got my brother to trade in his aging gooseneck iMac for a brand new one, but he finds that everything on the screen is too small. I changed the resolution in the Displays system preference, which made the icons bigger, but the text looked chunky and not as clear. Is there any way to increase the size of text and objects without losing the sharpness of the stock setting?

**Robin Huber**

**A:** You're fighting physics here. That new iMac has a larger screen than the old one and a higher native resolu-

## Bugs & Fixes

BY TED LANDAU



### When Entourage Quotes

**More than Requested** I've been irritated by a glitch in

Entourage 2008 that crops up when I attempt to reply to certain messages. I select/highlight a small portion of the received message text to include as a quote in my reply. But when I click the Reply command, the entire text of the message (except for any graphics, if those are present) is quoted in my reply—not just my selected snippet. The workarounds are simple enough: Delete the undesired text from the reply or use copy-and-paste rather than Entourage's quoting to place the desired text.

I know some, but not all, of the conditions that are necessary to produce this bug. I know the received message must be an HTML-formatted one. The message can otherwise be all text; no embedded graphics or complex formatting are required. However, HTML formatting alone is not sufficient. I suspect (but have not confirmed) that the symptom originates from e-mail messages sent via a Windows

e-mail client. Still, the precise precipitating cause remains a mystery.



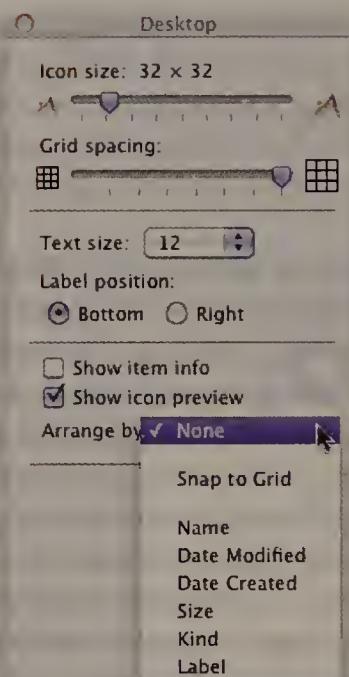
### Ringtones Won't Play in

**iTunes** An Apple support

article acknowledges a bug that affects the playing of ringtones purchased from the iTunes Store in the latest versions of iTunes (9.0.3 and later). If you attempt to play ringtones from iTunes on your Mac, the ringtones will not play. Instead, an Authorize Computer dialog box appears, informing you that you are not authorized to play the ringtone and prompting you to enter the Apple ID and password for your iTunes account. If you click the Authorize button, a dialog box should pop up that states: "This computer is already authorized." The good news is that you should still be able to sync these ringtones to your iPhone, where they will play correctly.

Senior Contributor **Ted Landau** is the founder of MacFixIt ([www.macfixit.com](http://www.macfixit.com)). Share your problems at [bugs@macworld.com](mailto:bugs@macworld.com) or on Macworld.com's Mac 911 forum.

**A Better View** You can instruct your Mac not to arrange your icons via the Finder's View Options command.



tion. This results in text and icons that are smaller than you'd be accustomed to on a gooseneck iMac. The problem is that when you choose a lower resolution in the Displays system preference, everything on the screen becomes less crisp.

Hope isn't completely lost, but the solutions I offer are imperfect compromises. As for objects in the Finder, you always have  $\text{⌘}-\text{J}$  (Show View Options) at your disposal. Press this helpful key combination while in the Finder, and you'll see the option to increase the size of icons on the desktop as well as in any windows where you've chosen to view entries as icons.

Next, when using Safari or Mail, press  $\text{⌘}+\text{Plus Sign} (+)$ . In Safari this will increase the size of objects on a Web page. In Mail, it increases the size of text in messages.

By default, the Universal Access system preference allows you to easily zoom the Mac's screen. Hold the Control key and then use your mouse's scroll wheel (or a laptop's touchpad) to zoom the display in and out. Yes, when you do this objects on the screen become less distinct. Blame physics. Alternatively, you can zoom in and out in preset levels. Press  $\text{⌘}-\text{Option}-\text{Equal}$

Sign (=) to zoom in, and  $\text{⌘}-\text{Option}-\text{Minus Sign} (-)$  to zoom out.

Finally, time and a little vision-enhancement may help. When I moved to a larger monitor I had similar difficulties. What turned the tide for me was getting some eyewear designed for computer use. My glasses focus at just around the distance to my monitor (three feet) and also add some magnification. Where once I squinted, I can now view everything on the monitor comfortably.

### Track a Mac's Uptime

**Q:** I'm a member of a Mac computer club at a retirement facility. We maintain a site with five computers. We wish to determine the number of hours each computer is used. Is there an application internal to the Mac that will accomplish this?

**Murray Freiman**

**A:** If you're interested simply in knowing how long a Mac has

#### Macworld Digital Photography Superguide



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## Mac Troubleshooting Superguide



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been on (and would like to flex a little geek muscle in the process), it's easy to do. Just launch Terminal (found in /Applications/Utilities), and when you see the prompt, enter **uptime** and press Return.

Terminal will respond with something like the following:

2:37 up 4 days, 3:54, 2 users,  
load averages: 0.24 0.19 0.20

That breaks down this way: Current time, number of days, hours:minutes, number of accounts using the computer during that time, and load average over the last 1, 5, and 15 minutes.

If you're averse to Terminal, you're welcome to download Joakim Nygård's free ShowOff Widget ([jokke.dk/software/widgets](http://jokke.dk/software/widgets)), which puts this information in a handy widget. iSlayer's free iStat Pro ([www.islayer.com/apps/istatpro](http://www.islayer.com/apps/istatpro)) is another widget that can display this information (along with a wealth of other helpful information about your Mac).

ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

## X MAC 101

### Return to Active Numbers Cell

**Q:** Every time I open a saved spreadsheet while working in Numbers, the view goes to Row 1, Column A. Because I use very long spreadsheets, it is bothersome to have to look for the place where I finished working last time. How can I save the spreadsheet and open it later in the last place I was working?



**Moises Majche**

**A:** If, like many people, you use a zoomed view, Numbers will save that view. Open a saved document that's been zoomed, and it's likely you'll see something other than the selected cell.

There's an easy way to locate it, though. Just tap an arrow key. Do so and the document will move to the location of the currently selected cell, which will be one cell away from the cell you were last working with.

If you'd like to know how long particular users have been logged into a Mac, you can use Terminal for that as well. Launch Terminal, enter **last**, and press Return. Terminal will display a list of accounts that have been and/or are logged into the Mac.

If the account has been logged out, you'll see both the login and logout date and time, along with the amount of time the account was logged in. If the account is still logged in, you'll see the date and time when it was first logged in.

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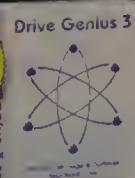
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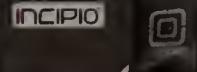
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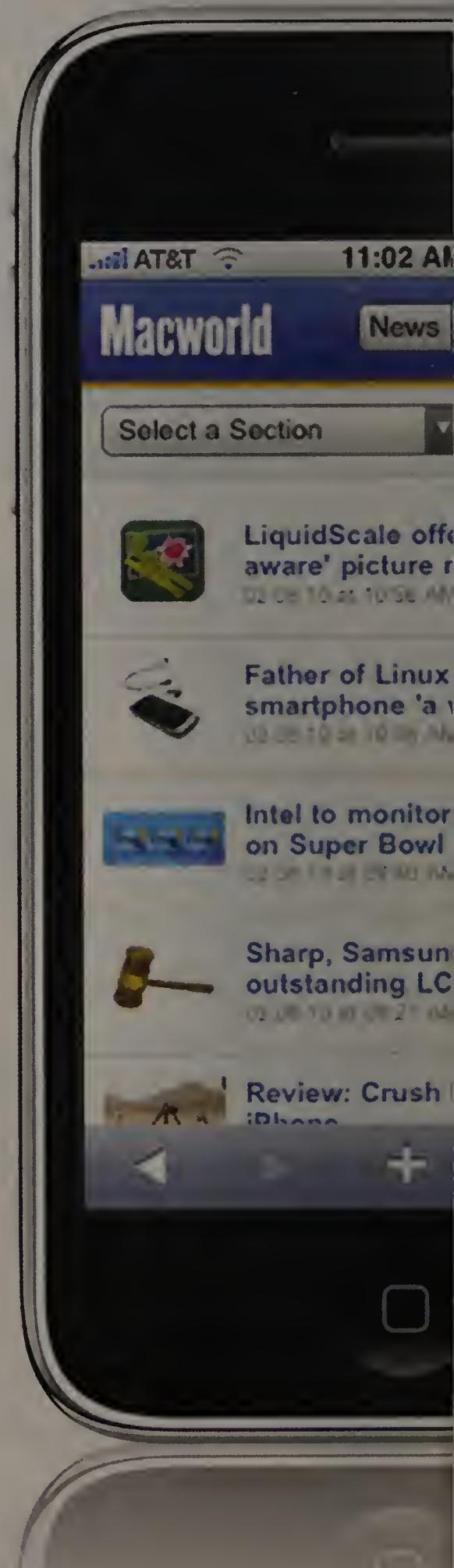
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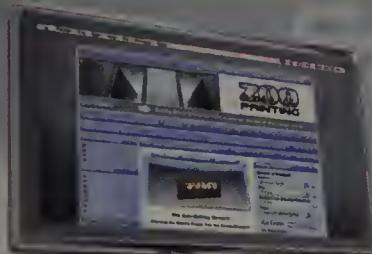
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# Apple's Other Operating System

With all the attention being paid to the iPhone OS, whither Mac OS X?

Until a few months ago, I fully expected Apple to announce Mac OS X 10.7 at this year's Worldwide Developers Conference. But when I saw that there was no Mac-specific track on the conference schedule and that Mac apps would be excluded from the annual Apple Design Awards, I got the message: iPhone OS and the products it powers (the iPhone, the iPod touch, and the iPad) are the stars of Apple's software show. Mac OS X, last updated a year ago, now plays second fiddle.

Mac OS X's last major release, Snow Leopard, included internal changes, bug fixes, and performance improvements, but very few new features that users could see. Could it be that Apple thinks there's just nothing left to add to Mac OS X? I sure hope not, because I have plenty of ideas. Here are just two of them, one concrete and the other more fanciful.

## A Modern File System

Mac OS X's file system, HFS+, is more than twelve years old. It is itself an extension of the HFS file system, which is almost twenty-five years old. Technology has come a long way since 1985.

Modern file systems include features like snapshots (instantly saving the state of an entire disk), block-level incremental backups (efficiently identifying and copying only the data that has changed), and data deduplication (storing only one copy of a chunk of data that may appear in many different files). File systems created this century are also much more amenable to concurrent access than HFS+; the latter's single, centralized Catalog File data structure can be updated by only one process at a time.

But all of this is esoteric technobabble next to HFS+'s most egregious failing: its lack of reliability. In my twenty-six years of Mac use, the most likely cause of data loss has been file-system corruption. I can accept it when a hard

disk fails; mechanical devices wear out. Software has no such excuse. A new file system would be a practical and long-overdue addition to Mac OS X.

## A Touchscreen Mac

My second idea lies at the opposite end of the practicality spectrum. Apple could start down the long road toward the convergence of its two major software platforms by adding touch-based features to its desktop operating system.

Don't get me wrong: The Mac user interface is not designed for touch. Standard controls like scrollbars, buttons, and checkboxes are too small to be manipulated with an adult-size finger. Some common operations—such as hovering a cursor over an interface element without clicking it—can't be done with touch alone. On the hardware side, poking at the vertical screen surface of a touch-sensitive iMac would quickly produce arm fatigue.

So what kind of touch integration would make sense? The iPad shows that

**Could it be that Apple thinks there's nothing left to add to Mac OS X? I sure hope not.**



touch-based applications with desktop-level ambitions are certainly possible, if the hardware is willing. Mac OS X could meet the iPad halfway with a little help from Mac hardware.

Imagine a new laptop about the size of a MacBook Air, but with a keyboard that can fold back on itself, leaving just a slim, touch-sensitive screen visible. Further imagine that this laptop ships with a version of Mac OS X that includes the ability to purchase, download, and run any iPhone OS application written for the iPad. Now you've got the best of both worlds: a light, fully capable Mac laptop when you need all the power it provides, and a slightly bulky (but screamingly fast) iPad when you don't.

This is not as far-fetched as it may sound. Applications written for iPhone OS already run natively in Mac OS X inside the iPhone and iPad simulators that are part of Apple's developer tools. Developers compile their iPhone OS applications for Intel CPUs during testing and then recompile them for ARM CPUs (used in the iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch) before uploading them to a handheld device or the App Store. An application compiled to contain both ARM and Intel code could run on iPhone OS devices and Macs.

I admit that—feasible or not—a hybrid Mac/iPad does seem somewhat schizophrenic, and a bit out of character for Apple. But then, coming up with new features for Mac OS X is Apple's job, not mine. And it's precisely the features that no one was asking for—the ideas that no one had thought of—that have made the Mac what it is today. I'm anxious to see what Apple has in store for us in 10.7, whenever the company gets around to releasing it. Mac OS X is far from finished, in any sense of the word.

**John Siracusa** is a software developer and freelance technology writer.



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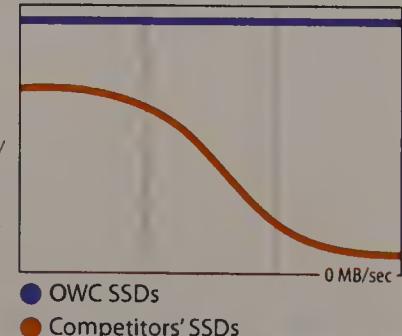
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